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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

ISSUE NUMBER 17 ★ APRIL 17th, 1980

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 15, Number 17 **April 24th,1980**

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About the Cover—

Ron Onorato unhooks a 30-lb. class pollack that took a diamond jig/tube rig last spring south of Block Island. See the feature story on page 26.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **RENTAL SKIFFS**

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Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons, EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
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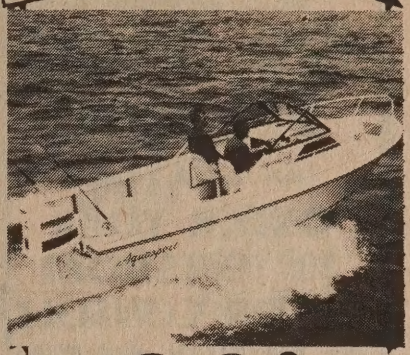

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The Fighting Chair

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Case For A Saltwater Fishing License

READERS' COMMENTS

The following letters were received from readers in response to the series entitled "The Case For A Saltwater Fishing License" that recently appeared in **The Long Island Fisherman.** ***Representative letters such as these will be published until we feel that the issue has been fully aired. At that time, our readers will be polled via a postcard ballot that will be inserted in an issue of*** **The Fisherman.** ***Comments should be kept as brief and concise as possible and addressed to: The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, New York 11963, Att.: Saltwater License Department.***

I have followed with great interest your series on "The Case for a Saltwater Fishing License," and I must agree with your conclusion that a saltwater fishing license is inevitable. This is too large a source to leave untapped, particularly in this day and age. I would like to comment on the three items listed below:

CO-MINGLING OF FUNDS. While your Model License seems to make provision that all of this money *must* go into the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund, there is no statement or guarantee that these funds cannot, at any time, be co-mingled with the general funds of the State. My concern stems from what the politicians did with the N. Y. State Lottery money. Originally, it was all to go to Education, but, somehow, the politicians managed to get this money into the General Fund where, of course, it lost all identify for Education. I would not like to see this happen to the MRFF Fund. Could you not broaden out Section II of the Model License to include such a guarantee?

STABILITY OF THE LICENSE FEE: The Model License indicates an annual fee of $6, plus fifty cents for the issuing clerk. What is to prevent these two cost items from being increased year after year? You need only look at the N.Y. State auto inspection fees to know what I mean. In these inflationary times, nothing seems to be sacred.

ENFORCEMENT: If eight percent of the MRFF will be devoted to Enforcement, how is this money going to be utilized? In essence this could amount to a sizeable sum of money that, pure and simple, could find its way into the hands of politicians who wish to pay off a political debt. Some provision should be made to spell out the caliber of personnel to be used for this enforcement. We certainly don't want "no-show" personnel.

If we are not going to have a license rammed down our throats, let us all try to make a saltwater fishing license fair, equitable and as tight as we can. *Edmund J. Bath, Douglaston.*

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund is the key provision of the Model License that was outlined in the series. Rest assured that the final wording would absolutely, positively prevent the license fee money from being co-mingled with the general funds of the State. If any license bill does not have this provision, we will be the first to speak out against it. The annual license fee could not be raised without going through the legislative process. So a bill to raise the fee would have to be passed by the State Senate, State Assembly and signed by the Governor before it could take effect. Public outrage at such an attempt would be more than ample to prevent this happening, so we have no fears in this regard. Concerning enforcement, these would be civil service jobs filled by conservation officers in the Department of Environmental Conservation

and not subject to political chicanery.

* * *

One would have to be awfully naive not to believe the five or six dollar fishing license fee is only a miniscule tip of the iceberg. How long would it take for other states to recognize a bonanza? Then too, how about the counties, towns and hamlets? To a boatman this would have little effect; in fact, he stands to be the chief beneficiary if any of the funds actually filter down to their lowest point: the fishermen.

I fish mainly from the shore—the surf or inlets—with an occasional trip aboard a party boat. At this time, it is possible too for me to pursue my sport anywhere from Cape Cod to and around both coasts of Florida with less difficulty, I may add, than I have here on Long Island. You see, I live on the western tip and with the exception of some of the State Parks, beaches are closed to all but area residents. Now if our neighboring states catch the license fever, which is sure to become contagious, I will have to carry more tags than a long haul truck!

No doubt, you have given this matter considerable thought and study and I wonder whether you have arrived at any estimate of the amount of people it would require to enforce this should it become law? There is an awful lot of water around us and fishing is a twenty-four hour thing in season. What will these men be paid? What about their retirement plan and fringe benefits? Who is going to check to see whether they are doing their jobs or goofing off somewhere? With that item out of the way how much is left for the top brass—and (I almost forgot) our benefit?

I can envision the furor it would cause when these newly formed gestapo try herding the kids, seniors, the poorer people into their paddy wagons from the Crossbay Bridges, Canarsie Pier and Coney Island Pier. If our learned judges dole out the same justice as they do muggers, murderers, etc., they will all be back fishing in an hour or so. *Ed Haring, Brooklyn.*

As with any law or regulation, enforcement of a saltwater license begins with the premise that the vast majority of the citizenship are law-abiding people. As has been evidenced by the freshwater license, voluntary compliance with the law results when those who are effected by a license feel that they are receiving a value from the license fee that is paid. In our estimation, when Long Island fishermen have more free launching ramps, artificial reefs where they can catch more fish, and find that they no longer have to compete with gill nets, fish traps, haul seines and draggers cleaning out their favorite fishing spot, that they will comply with the law voluntarily and with enthusiasm—as they do for the most part now in freshwater. Enforcement of the law against those who voluntarily break it is a general problem in our society that a saltwater license is not going to cure.

* * *

I have a bumper sticker on the front and rear of my Van that says, "No Saltwater Fishing License." I have read all of your articles on licensing and I might consider adding the word "Maybe" to the bumper sticker.

The question I would like for each of us to ask is—what have each of us as individuals done?

The Long Island Fisherman is an excellent publication to which I have been a subscriber since 1973. Talking to fishermen from Cape May to Cape Cod in reference to what they read in a fishing publication, most of them honestly read the how-to articles, fishing articles and fishing reports. Then you have the fishermen who read no publications at all and are just concerned with the high hook. I hate to say it but the majority of fishermen are still apathetic to varying degrees and are really naive to how complex an ecosystem the ocean is.

A saltwater license—if implemented correctly—could put the silent majority of fishermen in a limited sistuation to participate in the process of conservation and preservation of our saltwater environs. The fee paid from a fisherman's pocket with required voting on controversial issues and subsequent courses of action would automatically get a lot more people involved in the process. Sometimes when you are in a limited situation, you have to do what is best, not popular. We should all *consider* a saltwater license...but it must be a total process involving participants (fishermen) to ultimately improve the marine environment. *R. Kincaid, "Van to Montauk."*

* * *

I'm for a saltwater fishing license, if it would provide more boating *public* launching ramps, and not have to put up with Nassau County residents only. *Rollin Gatter, Jr.*

* * *

I am writing in response to your first article on the saltwater "Model" license. In reading the outline you have set forth, I go along with the idea that now is the time to implement a proper structure for the benefits to be received from the saltwater license which seems to be inevitable. The article is very well written and I go along with all the proposals you have listed with the exception of who gets a free ride. As you may know, in the hunting and freshwater licensing structure, a forty percent disabled veteran is entitled to a free license. I don't think we (as I am a disabled Vet) should be left out of the picture now. The Vietnam era veteran has been put aside often enough, so I

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think they and any other disabled vet should be considered for a free saltwater license as well. Thank you for taking time to read this letter. Keep up the good work! *Nick Capizola, Carmel, NY.*

* * *

After reading your articles endorsing a fishing license, I couldn't believe such naivete existed in this day and age. Either you've had the sun beating on your head too long or the rocking of the boat has softened your brains.

If you think supporting a saltwater fishing license, the sport will benefit from the proceeds, do some more research. The gasoline tax was supposed to be used for our roadways. Have you driven on your local roads lately? The best business today is the wheel alignment business. Now they want to use the tax for public transportation. Remember OTB proceeds to aid education? Are they? No one knows where the money is going.

Any money from saltwater licenses will be used to hire bureaucrats to issue and enforce compliance of obtaining a license.

It's even ridiculous to get a license because almost all the shore areas within striking distance to Queens are either town beaches or the private North Shore.

Let me conclude with, this day and age with big government, let me sit on my fishing pail, relax and get a few hours away from it all in this God-given resource without Big Brother homing in on this last vestige of man and nature. I am totally against a license. *Ed Annitto, Bellerose.*

We had hoped that the series of articles would convince readers such as yourself that everything you predict will be coming true in the near future—UNLESS sport fishermen take the initiative and see that the license that is coming sure as rail will not be just another tax but provide some benefit to those who will be licensed.

* * *

After reading your case for a saltwater license and seeing how much time, effort and thought that you have put into it, I feel rather badly about writing a letter of opposition—but I feel it must be done.

Although I'm sure that you have tried to cover all bases, unfortunately you have not. All during the summer I invite friends and relatives to spend a day with me. The day usually consists of a few hours on my boat during which we wet a few lines. Sometimes the fishing is serious and sometimes it is casual. For most of these people that day is the only time they fish, as most of them do not live near water. You see my point, of course: to ask these people to lay out $6.50 for a few hours of fishing is ridiculous. All that the license fee would accomplish in this case is stop these people

from fishing. I'm sure that I am not the only boat-owner fisherman who will run into this problem.

I am also sure that there are many other instances that will prove this license to be nothing but a nuisance. *Victor Consiglio, Massapequa, NY*

This is a problem that we have mulled over at great length and found no viable answer to. Where is the line to be drawn as to who will be licensed? We're afraid that the only solution is to license people the same as presently done for fishing in freshwater and hunting: if you do it, you need a license. While it is easy to protect the occasional fisherman who fishes on an open boat, charter boat or rental skiff, we can't see how the occasional fisherman on a private skiff could be protected. Any ideas, readers?

* * *

Your articles regarding a saltwater license are excellent. I agree with you all the way. I would like nothing more than to see a license such as you describe.

If it is true that the politicians and bureaucrats intend to use all the money from the license as revenue, the way they'd like to, how are they reacting to your ideas? We want the money to be used solely for the advancement of recreational fishing, but I can't help but think that the government has other plans. What have the bureaucrats got to gain if we get the license the way we want it?

So far, I've heard no response from the government on this subject. Could they be waiting for the precise moment to drop some kind of "bomb" on our plans? Do they have all our moves covered?

They seem awfully quiet. Do they think we're a joke, or, if they take us serious, do they have a plan in the making which they will spring on us at a predetermined time? Also, where do the commercial fisheries stand on this issue? *Mark Morgen, Brooklyn.*

Ed brings up a good point. Anyone who thinks that it is going to be easy to get the Model License as outlined in the series passed into law is gravely mistaken. The politicians will fight it tooth and nail, especially the provision for the Marine Recreational Fisheries Fund. Only by fighting with a concerted effort for a GOOD license such as the model will sport fishermen prevent the politicians from shoving a bad one down our throats.

* * *

Because of my two columns in The Fisherman, my mail load is often heavy. I've noticed a gradual increase in the question "Do you favor or oppose a saltwater fishing license?" from those who write me. I've taken this opportunity to make my thoughts known on the matter.

I don't favor a saltwater fishing license, but I think if we're not careful, we may have the sort we don't want shoved down our throats. Few politicians, once they've been alerted to the untapped reserves so readily available to them—namely those millions of dollars just "burning" a hole in our pockets—few of those boys will find it within themselves to overlook this totally unexpected gold mine. Would you expect a thresher shark to pass up a school of mackerel? When seven digit figures were first used to describe the amount of saltwater fishermen who would have to pay a yearly fee for the God-given right of wetting a fishing line, how their beedy old eyes must have gleamed in anticipation of better days to come. Truly, Manna from Heaven, but hardly for those chosen of God.

There is only one way to outwit those who would do "business at the same old stand." And in this we are lucky, for time is on our side. Therefore, we must band together and cling as barnacles to a spiling—this is the only way. We must make our wants known in no uncertain terms to those in a position to help: letters to politicians who know and understand our plight (there are many of these true public-spirited gentlemen willing to join with us); letters to newspapers and local citizens known to carry clout would certainly help.

We must make certain our license fees go to further sport fishing—*and sport fishing only!* There must be no opportunities for ABSCAM pocket-lining, "road building," Around-the-world family junkets, etc., etc., etc. And there must be guarantees in black and white against this happening. If we fail to make certain of these, our license fee becomes just another tax, a tax whose fate will unquestionably be decided by administrators who wouldn't know on which end of a fishhook to place bait.

This is about it—but I was just thinking. I've got an idea that if the money were to be earmarked for sport fishing, and sport fishing only, it is quite possible we won't be getting a saltwater fishing license at all. *Matt Ahern, Hampton Bays.*

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In the next few weeks the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council will carry out a census of commercial fishermen and operators of party and charter boats from New York through Virginia. The census is intended to obtain critical information for the development of fishery management plans by the Council.

Data on the number of vessels active in fisheries in the mid-Atlantic area, the characteristics of those vessels, the time spent fishing, species caught, and expectations for the future are sketchy at best. Without such data in an accurate form, the Council has great difficulty in establishing workable fishery management plans, as it is charged to do under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Questionnaries will be circulated shortly to lists of known commercial fishermen and operators of party and charter boats who are urged to reply as completely as possible so that no segment of the industry will be overlooked or neglected when fishery management plans are prepared. Under the law, all information given by individuals is strictly confidential.

For additional information contact John C. Bryson, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Room 2115, Federal Building, North and New Streets, Dover, Delaware 19901, Telephone (302) 674-2331.

SALTWATER LICENSE MEETING REMINDER

Don't forget! The New York Sportfishing Council is holding a public meeting on the Saltwater Fishing License this Thursday evening, 4/24 at 8PM at the West Hills School off Rt. 110 in South Huntington. Here's an opportunity to make your view known. (It's on Weston Street across from the Walt Whitman Shopping Mall.)

BREAUX BACKS D/J LEGISLATION

In a "Dear Colleague" letter, clout-heavy Congressman John Breaux (D-LA) called for support of HR 6074, a bill to amend the Dingell/Johnson (D-J) Act to increase revenues to the states for "sport fish restoration, development, enhancement and research in both fresh and salt water.

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are raised by a ten percent Federal excise tax imposed on manufacturers of rods, reels and artificials lures. HR 6074 would extend the D-J excise to boats, motors and trailers used for recreational fishing purposes.

Not surprisingly, boat manufacturers are opposed to the amendment. In addition, because the formula for distributing D-J funds discriminates against small coastal states with large fishing populations, such as Hawaii and Massachusetts, some angler groups are unenthusiastic. Nevertheless, it is apparent that in many states increased funding is badly needed. As noted in Rep. Breaux' letter, "Dwindling dollar revenues and increasing pressure on fishery resources have severely hindered the efforts of the states to effectively manage such resources." If adopted, the amendment is expected to increase D-J funding by $70 million in the first year and by $100 million or more in subsequent years. **Reprinted from National Coalition for Marine Conservation's "Right Rigger!"**

N.Y. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL ACTION UPDATE

Fellow sport fishermen—it may look like no one gives a damn about you or your fishing rights. But don't despair. The N.Y.S.C. was founded in 1977 by 114 conservationists, clubs, lawyers, scientists, businessmen, journalists and hard fishing men and women who do give a damn! Some were pros and some novices, but all were dedicated to improving, through political action, the quality of sport fishing for themselves, their children and you. Their enthusiasm got results.

Within a few months the Council, which now represents thousands, spawned a committee to advise its board of directors and membership on the Saltwater Fishing License proposal. We established a Menhaden Committee, Beach Access Committee and committees on Inlet Stabilization, Pollution, and Weakfish Management in the Great South Bay. We held public discussions with the Department of Environmental Conservation on a protection program for weakfish, and then drew up and introduced legislation to ban gillnetting in the bay, during the month of May.

Equally important, the Council participated in the selection of New York State's delegate to the State/Federal Striped Bass Management Project. In your behalf, he reports that "the urgent need to properly manage this dwindling resource on a coastal basis is now clear to the scientific community."

In late 1978, the Council streamlined its decision and policy-making processes, and overall structure, to deal more quickly and effectively with the issues—issues which

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engulfed us throughout the next year.

In 1979 we fought the bluefish purse seiners at public hearings at Riverhead, Rockeville Centre and Belmar, N.J. The Rockeville Centre meeting was attended by thousands and we got sympathetic television news coverage, on NBC, to promote our views. We joined with Congressman Jerome Ambro and Huntington Supervisor Ken Butterfield to fight, with letters, speeches and massive petitions, the Army's dumping of poison in Long Island Sound. In this, we were aided by frequent radio news interviews, numerous newspaper articles and editorials, and guest appearance with government leaders on cable TV news programs. We succeeded in almost getting our weakfish gillnetting bill through the State Senate, and we chaired a meeting between our state legislators and Washington-based proponents of the Federal saltwater fishing license to argue the merits of such proposals. We also participated in the struggle against the dredging of Romer Shoals, the pound net at Montauk's North Bar and the dragging of the Great South Bay. In addition, we hosted public hearings before the National Marine Fisheries Service on the proposed tuna fishing regulations for 1979-80.

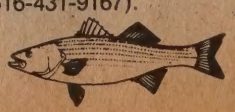
At PRESENT, our board of directors is pushing hard for legislative passage of weakfish bills, sponsored by Assemblyman Yevoli and State Senator Pisani, which ban gillnetting in the Great South Bay, during the spawning season and establish comprehensive regulations for gillnetting at other times. The Council has adopted a "wait and see" attitude toward the saltwater license issue and is preparing to take a strong position on the issue of purse seining for bluefish. Purse seining may have calamitous and permanent effects on the entire Long Island fishery and the board is presently gathering data to assist in determining what legislation is needed. And we are also pressing hard for development of a comprehensive Striped Bass Management Program.

Most importantly, the Council is standing guard to inform you, and those in power who should be informed, about the endless onslaught on our fishery by people who don't care.

You need the **New York Sportfishing Council** and we need you.

Join us to influence the manner in which we represent you. Give us your support and, especially, the advantage of your personal talents and skills. In return, we'll give you the confidence that you've done something to put fish on your line and in your children's future.

Write or call George Gerhold at 4055 Broadway, Island Park, NY 11558 (516-431-9167).



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CLUB NEWS

ATLANTIS ANGLERS

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Call for information: Fuzzy Wengler, 516-546-0965, after 6PM.

HIGH HILL STRIPER CLUB

The High Hill Striper Club held its annual awards dinner at McQuade's Pub, Rockville Centre. A good time was had by all. Trophies were awarded as follows:

Largest weakfish, 12.8, Joe Vetrano; largest bluefish, 19.8, Bill Muller; largest striped bass, 32.8, Fred Schwab; most club points, Fred Schwab; Most release points, Fred Schwab.

The Club is strictly surf fishing oriented. Being conservation-minded, the Club prohibits the sale of weakfish, bluefish and striped bass by its members.

There are a few openings for new members. Those seeking membership can contact Larry Dos Santos (7PM-9PM) at 516-489-4419 or Tom Fitzsimmons, days, at 516-627-1477.

SQUAW ISLAND FISHING CLUB

The following list of officers for 1980 were installed at the Annual Dinner Dance, March 15, 1980:

President: Joe Koestner; Vice President: Ken "Chief" Bridwell; Treasurer: Joe Braun; Recording Secy'.: Mike Festo; Corres. Sec'y.: Barry Turano; Sergeant-at-Arms: John Bonich, and Quartermaster: Chip Libertino.

Board of Directors: Ed Bain, 3 years; Ernie Southern, 2 years; Vince Losito, 1 year and Bill Massi, 1 year.

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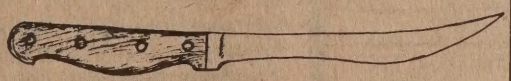

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OUTBOARD DOCTOR

Questions answered by
Doc Merc Omchrysler
of O.B. University

In a few weeks, I hope to make my first annual outing for weaks. Last year, I suffered the embarrassment of requiring a tow because my battery went dead out on the flats. What bothered me the most was the battery was only about a year-and-a-half old and the day before this happened, I had it to the gas station and it came up to a full charge. It went down again the following week, but I had a spare along, after which I bought a new battery. I know my generator was working, as it kept the new battery charged all summer. Shouldn't a boat battery last pretty much like an auto battery—say three years?. *C. Anders.*

By "boat battery," I assume you mean you have been using MARINE batteries. These cost more, but are built to take the kind of beating you feel in your feet when going three-quarters throttle in a short chop. Assuming your battery was built for marine use, I suspect your problem was merely one of failing to take minimal care of this essential piece of equipment. Get yourself a two or four ampere "trickle" charger. Hook it up to that battery that has been laying around all winter and let the juice "trickle" in; it may take a couple of days to bring it to a full charge, a condition in which all the electrolyte is in solution rather than crystalliizing on the negative plates as when happens when a battery is blast-charged by one of those big automotive battery boosters found in service stations. Constant draining of a battery and blast-charging has the effect of making the plates grow smaller; that is, reducing the usable part of the plates due to the sulfating (crystallizing). After awhile you have the equivalent of a motorcycle battery sitting in your big battery box. When parking your boat for the winter, remove the battery, and after making certain it is fully charged, store it in a cool dry place. Not alongside the furnace in the basement—cooler is better. Clean it up good, make certain there is no moisture on top to cause a little shorting between terminals, place it on a board, then come spring, use the trickle charger. I hear you do not need a board to separate the battery from concrete due to the new plastic cases, but it won't hurt to be safe.

* * *

Is there any rule as to how often spark plugs should be changed on an outboard? Also, what is the best way to clean spark plugs? Doesn't the sand used in the service station cleaning machines hurt the plugs? *J. Hunt.*

Spark plug life is very difficult to predict. Tune-up, timing, attention to gas/oil mixture and the way your engine is used, effects plug life. In general, think in terms of about 80 hours as an average life for spark plugs in your outboard. This is probably a little more time than the average inshore angler is able to apply his boat to fishing in the northern U.S. season. This would be twenty trips at two hours running time to and from the fishing grounds with drifting and trolling included. On the average then, a change in plugs each season is recommended. Of course, if you do a lot of slow-speed trolling, or leave your engine to idle while drifting, you can reduce plug life drastically.

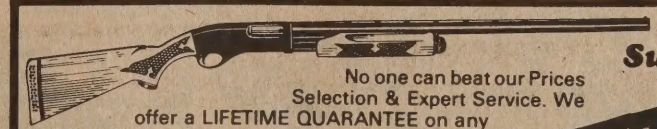
To be on the safe side—keeps the joy in boating—carry a spare set of spark plugs in your tool box.

As to cleaning spark plugs, those that are fouled with carbon and oil require "sand" (spark plug abrasive/cleaner) blasting. After the blast cleaning, all grit must be removed with air. Plugs that are gasoline-fouled require washing with a solvent and blown or air dried. A proper tune-up and normal running operation should ensure a full season from spark plugs. If constant trolling/idling is your style, check your plugs occasionally to determine if they require cleaning.

* * *

Last summer I experienced a very strange situation with my gas line primer bulb which my Merc dealer had replaced earlier in the season. We were bailing in porgies for a couple of hours and decided to look for weakfish. I went back to prime my 150 h.p. Merc and found that the primer bulb was absolutely flat and wouldn't fill up. Fortunately, I was able to crank the engine long enough to start it. When I got back to the launching ramp, the bulb was back to the filled condition. Do I have to worry about this happening again? *E. Walton, Riverhead.*

It sounds like you were out on a warm, sunny day. Sometimes when a Mercury replacement primer bulb is exposed to the sun's heat an expansion takes place. Inside the bulb there is a plastic check valve which when heated will cause the valve to remain closed. Probably all you would need to do is to wet it down or dunk it in the water and the problem would go away. Of course, you can have the bulb replaced, but the situation could come up again. Next time out in hot weather, try to shade the primer bulb.



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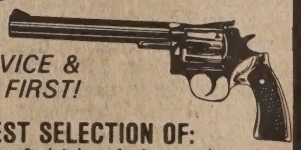

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

NWF AWARD TO REIGER

A well deserved award for Special Conservation Achievement was presented to famed outdoor writer George Reiger, of Locustville, Virginia, by the National Wildlife Federation at that organization's 44th annual meeting in Miami Beach, Florida, on March 22. The award was presented to Reiger for his "authoritative and stimulating" articles on conservation and the wise use of natural resources. His efforts on behalf of the Atlantic bluefin tuna were particularly noted.

George Reiger is the Conservation Editor for "Field & Stream," and one of the finest writers in the country. A Naval Academy graduate with an impressive scholastic and military background, Reiger could be a success in any number of journalistic areas that are far more lucrative than outdoor writing and conservation. Nevertheless, he's chosen to devote his life to writing about that which he cares most about—the great outdoors. His books (such as "Profiles in Saltwater Angling") are creating a history of the sport, and all his writings are filled with a love of nature and outdoor sports. Since conservation writers for national magazines are usually individuals with little grasp of marine problems, saltwater anglers are particularly fortunate to have Reiger around to aim his satiric barbs at the wrongdoers. If we are to succeed in passing along to our children a marine environment at least as good as we've enjoyed during our lifetimes, it will be in good measure because of the efforts of the George Reigers of our times.

NWF Award to Culver is Undeserved

While casting kudos at the National Wildlife Federation for honoring George Reiger, I have to balance the books by criticizing that organization's selection of Senator John Culver (D-Iowa) as Legislator of the Year. Maybe Culver didn't do anything wrong last year, but the award was given for his "consistent concern for the conservation of natural resources." Apparently, memories are short at NWF, as Senator Culver certainly didn't show an iota of concern for the conservation of marine resources when he voted against the 200-Mile bill. Even the compromises we now regret (such as exempting tuna from the bill) weren't enough to bring him over—nor was the attempt of the Emergency Committee to Save America's Marine Resources to make sure he knew the implications of what he was voting against. In order to ensure that he was well informed, we asked Congressman Berkley Bedell, of Berkley line fame (and a fellow Iowa Democrat) to pass the word. However, both Iowa Senators voted against the legislation (the other, Senator Clark, was defeated in the 1978 election), joining a small minority holding out against conservation of our marine resources. Unfortunately, Senator Jacob Javits (R-NY) was one of that undistinguished group.

The next time the National Wildlife Federation is looking for a Legislator of the Year, I hope they'll spend some more time looking into the lawmaker's voting record. It was particularly ironic that this award was proffered to Culver during Presidentially-anointed "Year of the Coast." It could well have been given to one of the speakers at the annual meeting, Congressman Gerry Studds (D-MA)—prime sponsor of the 200-Mile Limit bill. Others worthy of praise include Senator John Chafee (R-RI), sponsor of the striped bass research bill, and area Congressmen Edwin Forsysthe (R-NJ) and Norman Lent (R-LI). Forsythe is the ranking Republican on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee Subcommittee on Fisheries—and a consistent supporter of important conservation measures. Lent really started the ball rolling for the 200-Mile Limit in the House by introducing a bill at the request of the Emergency Committee—and rounding up enough co-sponsors to prove that there was real support for the concept.

A Few Thank-Yous

During the winter I was privileged to attend the annual awards banquets of some area clubs. At this time I'd like to thank the officers and members of the Kings Bay Striper Club, New York Athletic Club Anglers, Saltwater Anglers of Bergen County and Atlantic Beach Rod and Gun Club for their hospitality. There were some very impressive catches made by club members, and the excellent food served at all the affairs helped stretch my winter waistline! All of the clubs are also involved in significant conservation and charitable causes and are a credit to the fishing community. Of particular note is the Saltwater Anglers party boat trip (aboard the "Palace" fleet from Hoboken) for orphans.

Lots of Problems in Florida

After a recent trip to Florida, I'm convinced that we're not the only ones with problems in our marine environment. The delicate reefs are being inundated with fish traps, and huge roller net operations are wiping out the kingfish as fast as they appear off the East Coast. Fortunately, there is an increasingly strong conservation organization, the Florida League of Anglers, working on behalf of the sportsmen. They've assembled some very impressive information about the economic value of the marine sport fishery—and its importance as a part of the tourist industry. It's that economic factor that's bringing many legislators to their side, and the outlook is good for passage of bills to restrict fish trapping on reefs and massive netting of kingfish. For the first time the Florida Department of Natural Resources is siding with the sport fishermen. The new DNR Executive Director, Dr. Eldon Gissendanner, has introduced a legislative package which includes elimination of both fish traps and gillnets for kingfish in state waters. If New Yorkers would organize aggressively, they, too, might see a different attitude on the part of both legislators and Environmental Conservation officials!

Lots of Variety on "Starship" Trip

While in Florida, I was able to make another enjoyable forty hour trip with the "Viking Starship" to the Dry Tortugas. After a period in February when strong tides made fishing difficult, we encountered both good weather and decent fishing. As always, the variety was incredible. I caught thirteen different species, and at least a dozen more were caught by other anglers. The crew missed out on a jewfish during that trip, but nailed a 200-250 lb. tiger shark and a 63 lb. black grouper. An angler fishing for yellowtail snappers with a small hook caught a pool winning black grouper that was only a few pounds smaller. Several big amberjack were taken and a number of true red snappers came aboard during a stop in deep water. Many area fishermen have been making the trip to Key West for these unique excursions. Among those on this sailing were Sonny Rosen, Charly Petrone and Bobby Karen of Sheepshead Bay. They did a real job on the big yellowtails and kept me busy identifying the many varieties they were pulling up.

Mako Owners' Tournament's A Great Bargain

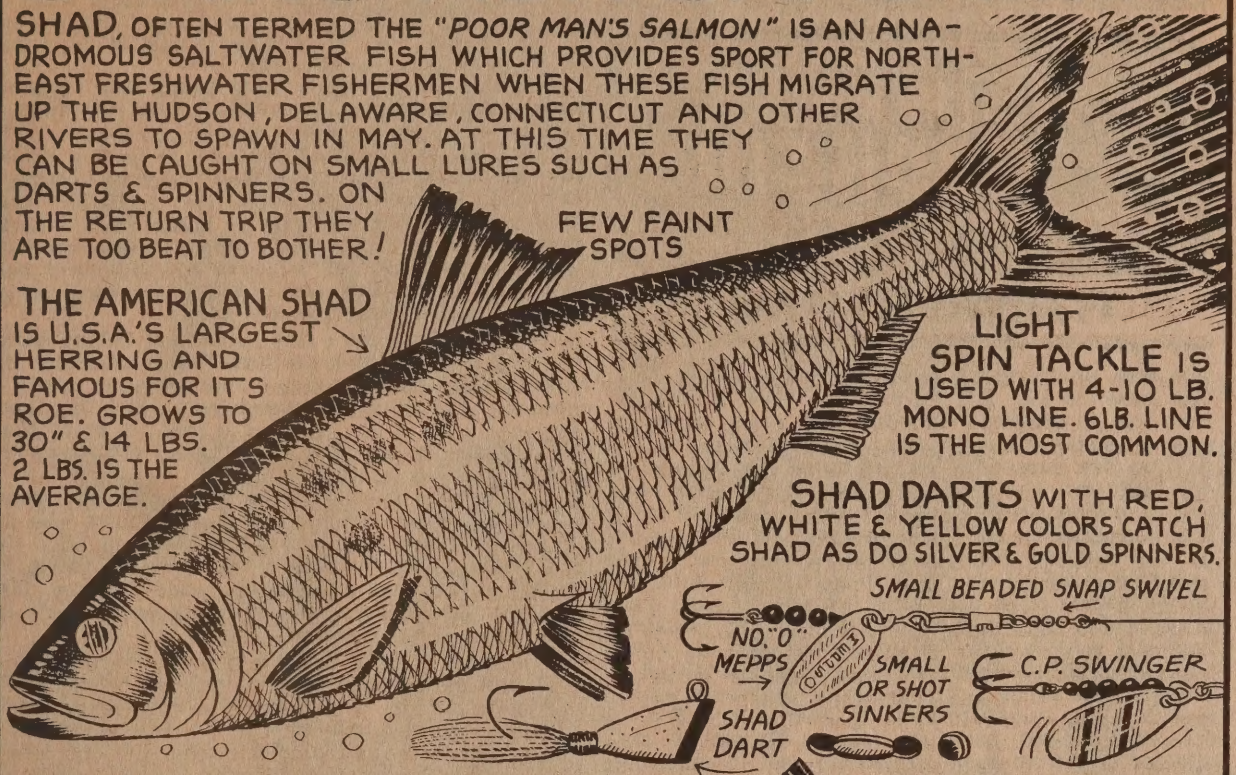
Another interesting aspect of my trip to Florida was the couple of days spent at the Mako Owners' Tournament in Key West. I fished there with Boog Powell (the former baseball great who now owns Angler's Marina) and Mako publicity chief Bill Munro (formerly of Montclair—and the man responsible for the Emergency Committee's 200-Mile posters and bumper stickers). Also got out one night for some tarpon trolling in the

(Continued on page 25.)

SPRING RUN SHAD

BY FRED GUARDINEER

SHAD, OFTEN TERMED THE "*POOR MAN'S SALMON*" IS AN ANADROMOUS SALTWATER FISH WHICH PROVIDES SPORT FOR NORTHEAST FRESHWATER FISHERMEN WHEN THESE FISH MIGRATE UP THE HUDSON, DELAWARE, CONNECTICUT AND OTHER RIVERS TO SPAWN IN MAY. AT THIS TIME THEY CAN BE CAUGHT ON SMALL LURES SUCH AS DARTS & SPINNERS. ON THE RETURN TRIP THEY ARE TOO BEAT TO BOTHER!



THE AMERICAN SHAD IS U.S.A.'S LARGEST HERRING AND FAMOUS FOR IT'S ROE. GROWS TO 30" & 14 LBS. 2 LBS. IS THE AVERAGE.

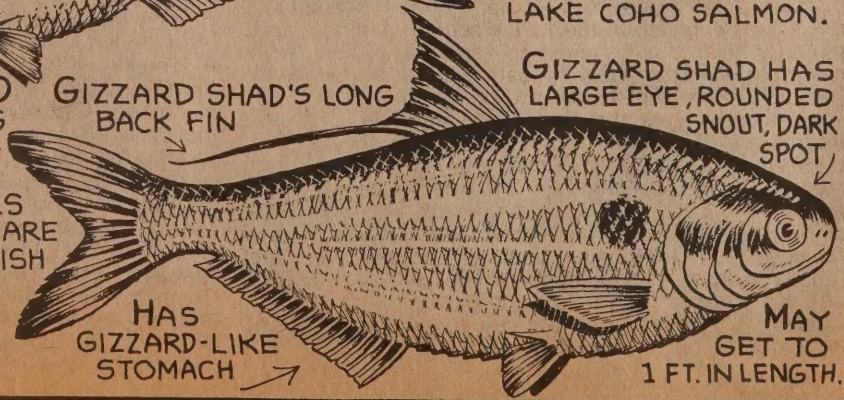
LIGHT SPIN TACKLE IS USED WITH 4-10 LB. MONO LINE. 6LB. LINE IS THE MOST COMMON.

SHAD DARTS WITH RED, WHITE & YELLOW COLORS CATCH SHAD AS DO SILVER & GOLD SPINNERS.

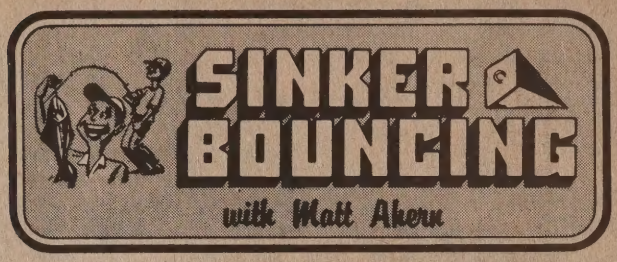
THE HICKORY SHAD, 1-2 LBS. - PRODUCES EXCELLENT ROE. THE REST OF THE FISH ENDS UP AS BAIT OR FERTILIZER. DOESN'T ALWAYS SPAWN SO ITS MIGRATIONS ARE A MYSTERY.

THE ALEWIFE WEIGHS LESS THAN 1 POUND. THIS RELATIVE OF THE SHAD IS MORE RENOWNED AS A BAIT FOR STRIPED BASS AND A FORAGE FISH FOR GREAT LAKE COHO SALMON.

THE GIZZARD SHAD IS A FRESHWATER HERRING THAT STRAYS INTO BRACKISH WATER AND UNLIKE OTHER HERRING, TRAVELS IN LARGE SCHOOLS. THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT FORAGE FISH FOR PREDATOR FISH AND ARE DISTINGUISHED BY THE LONG LAST RAY OF ITS DORSAL FIN.


GIZZARD SHAD'S LONG BACK FIN
GIZZARD SHAD HAS LARGE EYE, ROUNDED SNOUT, DARK SPOT
HAS GIZZARD-LIKE STOMACH
MAY GET TO 1 FT. IN LENGTH.

I knew I'd see it. I knew I'd see the day fishermen would come around to what was so obvious. It's been a tough uphill battle all these long years. But finally, at long last, sinker bouncers have regulated the "lowly" ling into its rightful niche: a fun fish, a delicious table fish, and perhaps best of all, a fish for all



FISHING FOR LING

who seek brimming buckets with little strain or pain. You know, to me, ling have always been a paradox. Here was an extremely abundant fish, easily caught by anyone capable of dunking bait, yet shunned and sullied as if by rote. Except for the few remaining Depression-day fishermen who still recall those hectic times when ling were indeed a welcome addition to a meagre table, this member of the cod family has received little acclaim by the majority of anglers. Of course, there were legitimate reasons for some of this, I suppose. After all, until a decade or so ago, most bottom fish were more plentiful than they are today. Not counting blackfish, ling, and whiting, most of the popular fish we sinker bouncers seek have gradually become more difficult to come by. We all know this, of course, and what you've just read is no earth-shaking revelation. But to consistently catch blackfish takes a degree of skill attained only from much experience—but to catch ling (and whiting) takes bare-bones basic knowledge. Any sinker bouncer who claims he can't catch ling must make a habit of spending all his fishing time in the cabin. There can be no other explanation.

I know I could write about the merits of ling fishing until my fingers fell off and I still would be unable to convince some fishermen that they're missing out on a good deal. Nor would I attempt to. To each his own and all that. Besides you know what is said about a man who's convinced against his will.

But to the fellow who's never caught ling, I say: try it—then decide. To the fellow who's been told ling are beneath his efforts, I ask this: how do you know?

I've met fishermen who refused to go ling fishing only because someone told them catching ling was similar to reeling in old boots, etc. Evidently these informants never caught ling off Sandy Hook's Cedar Ground in early May. (Quite possibly some of those spoil-sports never caught a ling in their lives and were merely passing on information passed on to them, which was passed on to them, ad infinitum.)

I know that when I first began ling fishing better than fifty years ago, I heard those stories which are still making the rounds today. There's been quite a conspiracy against ling for many, many years; but thank Heaven it looks at last as if we're about to shoot down those falsehoods once and for all—and deal them the death so richly deserved.

If you think this ling-praising is far-fetched, check with those bottom fishing party boat skippers who ply the waters of the New York Bight. Most of them I'm sure would shudder to think of the consequences to the industry if ling were suddenly to vacate the area. Ling have been, and always will be, money in the bank for these enterprising skippers.

Ling fishing has become so popular each spring, it is not unusual to find party boat skippers who shun the excellent mackerel fishing so readily available. Their fishermen demand ling—and more ling. Fortunately there seems no end to the ling supply, for each spring sport fishermen catch tons and tons of them. Even the serious inroads made by our "detente-happy" rapists has not noticeably diminished the supply.

So what all this boils down to is simply this: You ought to think seriously this spring about getting out there and catching some of those ling. If you've never caught ling, you owe it to yourself to find out what you've been missing. If you become like most ling fishermen (and I'm sure you will) you won't be able to wait to get out there again.

What follows is the low-down on ling fishing as I've found it. Whether you intend to fish for ling aboard a party boat or private craft, what you read will apply.

Ling are caught on mud or sand bottom, rocky banks, and around sunken wrecks, in water ranging from fifty to ninety feet in depth. They also seem to share the same curiosity streak as sea bass: lobstermen often find both in their baitless pots. Many popular local wrecks in the New York Bight—such as the Stone Barge, Steel and C.O.D. wrecks—hold large populations of ling during May and June. In fact, most of these localities produce ling until the warm water of late summer drives them offshore.

If conditions allow, it is a good idea to drift when fishing open bottom. While ling are not a schooling fish, they do gather in large numbers in one feeding area. Once the first few are taken, the fishing usually begins in earnest and you can easily take all you could possibly want or use. Anchoring over rough bottom and chumming with broken skimmer will also bring them to your baited hook.

Rigging for ling is simplicity itself, for no elaborate tackle is required. The usual medium-weight boat rod one would use for deep water porgy and sea bass fishing, equipped with a conventional revolving spool reel filled with 150 yards of twenty pound test good quality mono, will do fine.

Any hook ranging from 3/0 to 4/0 is satisfactory, although my preference leans to the regular shanked Sproat. It isn't necessary to use the heavier, long-shanked Kirby or Carlisle hooks as most ling will be

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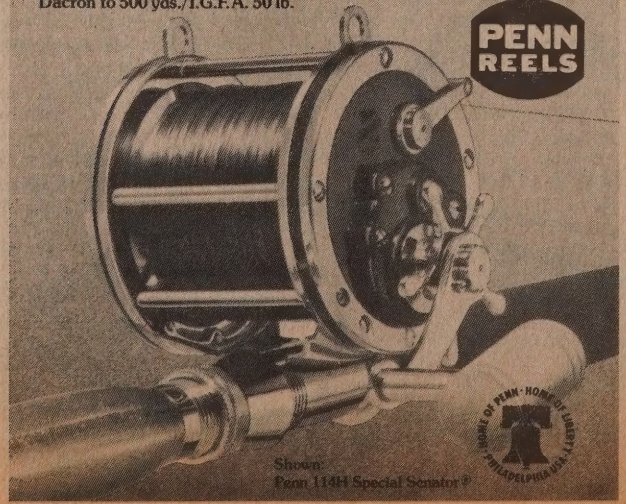

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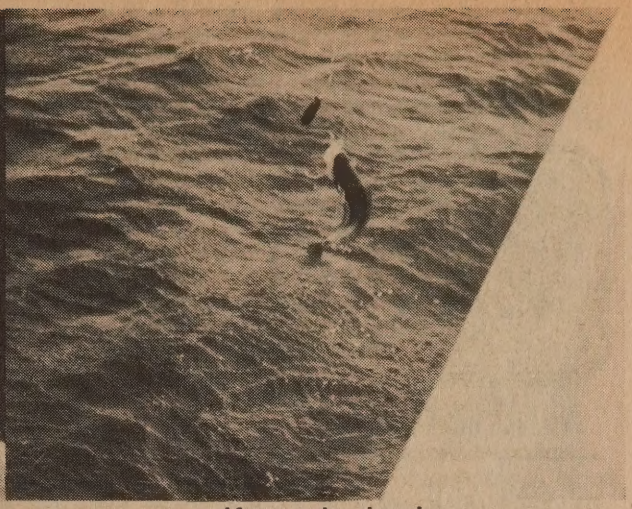
Ling are plentiful, easy to catch...



and fun to swing aboard...

Double-headers are common...

and they're easy to clean. What more can you ask for?

found to be jaw-hooked. If you find ling swallowing your hook too often it means you are not hooking your fish soon enough.

An eight ounce bank sinker will be found to be sufficient for most ling fishing—in some areas, particularly around wrecks, one of five ounces will suffice. Whatever size you use, be sure it is the lightest necessary to do the job. Ling in deep water are not the greatest fighters in the world, so you might as well get as much sport as possible.

While fishing open bottom, some fishermen tie two hooks tandem-style and place these about two inches above the sinker and let it go at that. It is best, though to tie a third hook about three feet higher. Ling and cod being members of the same family are often found on the same grounds—especially in early May. Many an unexpected cod has won the big-fish pool for the ling fisherman who recognized this fact. There is also an excellent chance of collecting a few nice whiting on that top hook when fishing open bottom.

Ling will accept a variety of baits: bergall slices, ling slices, whiting slices, have all been successfully used. Skimmer clam is most popular and is the kind most often supplied aboard party boats. Squid takes a back seat to none and it is an excellent bait to use at night (ling bite better at night, if such a thing is possible). Often in June, fluke are taken when ling fishing with squid.

Ling are soft fleshed, which means they won't keep in good condition during warm weather unless certain precautions are taken. It is important to protect them from the sun as much as possible and they should be gutted as the opportunity presents itself—certainly as soon as the fishing is over. (If you're in the big-fish pool, be careful here. Never clean your largest fish until you definitely know the pool has been decided. I can tell you some sad stories about this.)

Washing each gutted fish in sea water will pay dividends. Freshwater will soften already soft flesh and this is one reason why many ling are never used. If you must use tap water, use it sparingly.

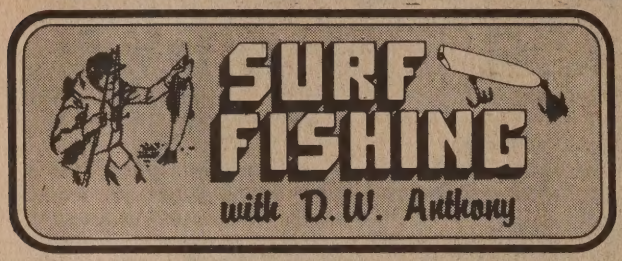
Always transport ling in porous bags—never plastic of any type. These have a tendency to retain heat and will curtail the necessary drainage needed to keep the fish cool. Treat your ling properly and they will remain firm and fresh for many hours.

Ling have tasty meat, white and flaky, much like cod in this respect. They freeze well (as do all bottom fish), and two or three ling trips will supply a fisherman with several months of delicious eating. Large ling can be turned into choice fillets and the smaller ones pan-fried to mouth-watering goodness. A method we use in preparation is to brush the fillets with mayonnaise or sour cream. These are then dipped into flavored bread crumbs, and popped into the frying pan. Delicious!

Go out and get yourself a mess of ling at the first opportunity. Not only will you be glad you did, but you'll be sorry you missed out on all that good fishing so easily attainable. And too, you are sure to discover why the ling is such a favorite with so many fishermen.

Oh, yes—one more thing. You will certainly understand why the old-timer was so eager to part with his hard-earned depression dollars.

Guaranteed.



WHERE TO START THE SEASON?

We find ourselves in the midst of the first weeks of the season, and since these earliest days are not usually characterized by fast fishing for various species, it is often a difficult choice to pick a "fishin' hole." Not too many years ago the choice was a lot easier. We could have confidence in a trip to the south shore loaded with bottom rigs and sandworms. We also wouldn't be laughed at if we took the same gear up to Little Neck Bay. However, in the spinning wheel of changing times, those south shore schoolies in late April just don't happen anymore and Little Neck Bay has not been a consistent producer. In some years, just about the time that Little Neck Bay began to produce, school bass also began to show up elsewhere.

That still leaves us with a fundamental problem. We have been cooped up indoors for the entire winter and now we want to get out and catch a few fish. In the early days we don't care too much about how big they are; we simply want some action.

Where would you go? Like everyone else you'll try to select a spot where there will be plenty of fish. Does such a place exist? I suppose so, but it isn't likely. There are a lot of factors that are at work now to make the fishing hit or miss. First of all, the fish are migrating and that means a school probably will not stay put for very long. They swing in and they swing out following the migrating baitfish and reacting to the constantly changing water temperatures. The bait may not be too abundant in the early days either and so even a large body of fish will have to move along to find better feeding. The weather in late April and early May doesn't help either since the thermometer goes up and down faster than an athlete doing deep-knee bends. A few days of temps in the seventies will spur the fish on to heavy feeding, while a northeast rainstorm with cold winds and driving rain can lower the water temperature five to ten degrees and put the fish off their feed.

So, the name of the game is hit or miss. With that in mind, I ask you again: where would you go? The first thought to come to mind is that although the good runs of south shore school bass are no more, there are spring weakfish where there were none before. So then, weakfish are your first choice? You'll probably decide on the south shore now because the Sound will take another week or so to warm up enough to equal the ocean temp right now.

Weakfish are not fond of running the surf line, although they do show up there from time to time in the fall. No, weaks like to move directly into the bays where they will spawn within a few weeks. So the interested surf fisherman will want to seek his weaks in the back bay area. The drawbridge just west of Captree is a spot favored by lots of surf fishermen because the water in the channel is deep and the weaks seem to find good feeding in the strong currents during the early days. Watch out, though, because if you park in the wrong place the State Troopers will give you a ticket. The bank traffic is usually pretty heavy here, too, and the elbow-to-elbow human population on the bank is not often mirrored by a similar population of weaks in the water. Fishing can be picky here, but there are those early mornings and evenings when good bodies of fish move in and then the action can be top-notch. The trick, as always, is to know when those times will take place. Incidentally, evenings and mornings seem to work out best in the early days when seeking the weaks. Bright sunshine is an almost certain no-no, while the dead of night will not produce consistently until the water warms up just a few more degrees. Until then, the dawn and dusk fishermen are in their glory.

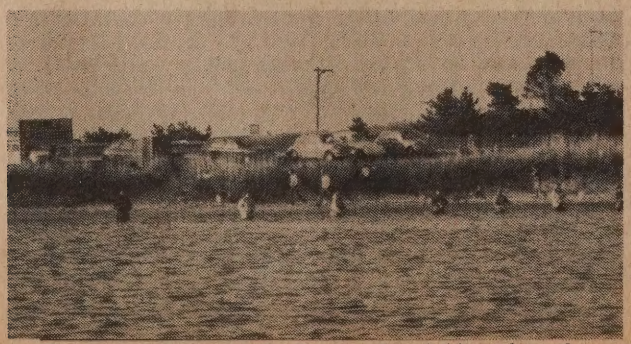
There is no such thing as the best lure—here or elsewhere—for weaks. All the plastic stuff works and in colors from chartreuse to hot pink. Deep plugs will also work and tins are a famous and justified mainstay of many who fish for weaks now.

The entire back-bay channel will produce weaks. Behind The Store at Oak Beach, behind Cedar Beach, and at various other locations towards Jones Beach. Thus, if it's weaks you want to start the season off, then the south shore back bays seem like a good choice.

Many a die-hard surf fisherman insists on starting the regular season with a bass and for those guys, it may be a tough early part of the season. Yeah, the bass aren't as plentiful as they were, but there are still enough around so that a fella can find a few. It isn't as easy as it used to be, but then again, it isn't impossible either. Whereas weaks will take artificials without reservation, the early days for bass may find them unwilling to commit suicide on plugs and tins. Especially now while the bass aren't that abundant, the bait fishermen may have a decided edge against the purist.

The bassmen are, therefore, confronted with two choices: where to fish and what to fish with. From all accounts, the Sound seems to offer the best early season possibilities and although a few fish will be picked in the south shore surf, most guys will gravitate north. We'll discount the power plant outflows in this discussion because we are talking about the regular season migrating fish. In the early days, the western Sound will produce much better than the eastern grounds simply because there are fewer Chesapeake fish and more Hudson fish moving through the East River into the Sound. There are many places to choose from. Little Neck Bay will probably produce fish for worm drowners and even those throwing small Rebels and RedFins will have a good shot if they can find a place where there are some baitfish. Sand eels seem like they will once again be THE bait, but if greater amounts of spearing are available, the chances are that early season bass fishing in the western Sound will be more productive. Much of the territory to the west is private and thus without permission, access many spots will be out of reach. Still, one of the early season's best spots is in Oyster Bay and here access is usually no problem at all in the early days.

Bass begin to show up around the Bayville Bridge in late April and although schoolies are the rule now, some of these bass are big. Possibly one of the best locations in this area is West Harbor which is the pocket-cove at the edge of Centre Island on the bay side. Again the amount of spearing around will tell the tale, for in years when shoals of spearing roam in this cove the bass are more plentiful than when the spearing are scarce. Small tins, surface plugs, bucktails and popping plugs produce in this area and the best action is often at dawn and again at dusk. Strong southwest winds will churn the water up into a milk chocolate foam which will punch holes in any fishing possibilities. Few



The crowded scene at the Captree Drawbridge where the early days may produce good catches of weakfish.

fishermen fish bait in this pocket because artificials work so well when the bass are there.

It is very important, in these early days to keep an eye on the water temperature. The waters inside the bays and harbors will warm up much faster than the open Sound and thus bass begin feeding inside about a week or so before they start roaming along the Sound beaches. If you start a little late, it may be a waste of time to work inside; whereas if you start early, the reverse will be true. So, as soon as the water in the Sound nudges into the low fifties, begin to look for the bass along the town beaches from the Throggs Neck Bridge to the Port Jefferson area. Access to these beaches is restricted during the bathing season, but seldom will anyone even ask a question now. Fishing the open Sound presents new problems. Worm fishermen may prefer areas without strong currents where bass are known to either pocket bait or swim by, while plugs will look for the rips and rock piles where bass may corner schools of bait.

It is now, when water temperatures begin to warm up towards true springtime levels, that night fishing possibilities really begin to improve. Much depends on the bait itself and, therefore, many surf fishermen will work from spot to spot until bait is located. It will not be typical for bass to be seen chasing bait. Instead, the waters will usually be calm and serene without even the slightest hint that a bass is present. Do not be deterred by the seeming lack of activity because this is the spring norm.

Although blues are known as warm water fish, there are those who prefer a bluefish to be the season's first addition to the stringer. There are some real possibilities, too. In 1978, there were loads of small blues available in the south shore inlets as early as April 20. Now, that's unusual, but the chance to catch a few blues is not out of the question. Most blues will be encountered in the mouths of the inlets although some will work into the back bays and be taken along with weaks in the locations mentioned above. Although the blues will probably eagerly chop up those jellyworms meant for weaks; thus, if there is any indication that blues are around, the fisherman would be wise to get out those tins.

Not everyone is over-eager about game fish in the early days. Plenty of us like to concentrate on something for the table now. It's a little early for blackfish; they'll be biting by mid-May. However, flounder are available everywhere. North or south isn't important. What is important is to find a nice rich muddy bottom to cast to. Virtually the entire back-bay channel area will produce flounder, although many fishermen like the Jones Beach piers and the areas around the bridges when the tide

This is what early season baitfishermen look forward to all winter—and for some the dream comes true!

isn't running too fast. Even the surf has its moments. The area around the Sore Thumb (if you can get on it) is known to yield many BIG flounder to guys casting from the shore. Up north the opportunities abound as well. Begin with the harbors. It isn't even necessary to search. Go to the nearest dock and cast a one-handed stick—like the kids do from the town docks at Cold Spring Harbor, Huntington, Centerport, Northport, and Port Jeff. Or, if you prefer, you can walk around the edges of the harbors and look for muddy mussel beds. True, the flounder may be a little bigger here, but perhaps not as plentiful. The outside will produce, too. Take a walk a low tide and look for troughs between the beach and an offshore bar or shoal. Perhaps you'll find a muddy hole which will show up as an almost black patch in a brown or beige sea with the bright sun beating down.

Where to start the season? The choice is yours and there are many possibilities. Don't be discouraged by poor or mediocre fishing reports either. There may not be too many guys out there working and those who are may be kind of close-mouthed. Give it a try!

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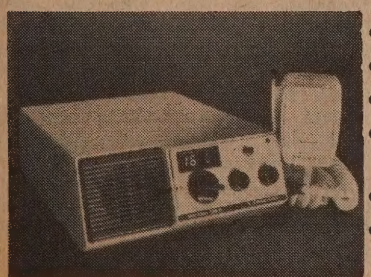

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FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

SEALING WAX AND KINGS

THIS WEEK! Today we will speak of many things, from sealing wax to kings! Our readers have been sending in intelligent questions at a blistering pace. We regret that we'll not be able to get to them right away, but eventually we hope that most will find their way into the column and if not, I'll do my best to answer the rest privately. This week, then, we will indeed speak of many things.

SNAPPERS AND BLUEFISH! Ronnie Wheeler of Brookville, N.Y. asked a very direct question in a recent letter. "Does the bluefish population on Long Island decrease because of the tremendous amount of snappers caught?" That was the whole letter, but a very good question. It sounds like it should be one of those questions that can be answered either yes or no, but I believe that there is a good deal more to this story than meets the eye. Therefore, I'll use the opportunity created by Ron's letter to discuss it. Scientists have estimated that there are between five hundred million to one billion bluefish in the western Atlantic Ocean. Now, for argument's sake, we will make a few assumptions and arrive at a few average figures in order to make rough computation possible. Let us assume that the average female bluefish can deposit about 400,000 eggs per season. Now, let's also assume that the bluefish population is a mean of the range and we come up with seven hundred fifty million bluefish. About one-half of these should be female, which means that we have about 375 million female bluefish depositing an average of 400,000 eggs each. That means that each year the Atlantic bluefish deposit about 150,000 billion eggs. Of course, not all are successfully fertilized and many fertilized eggs are eaten by other animals. The death rate among newly hatched blues is high, too, and the youngsters remain very vulnerable until they are about one to two inches long. By then they have invaded the bays. Let's assume a survival rate of about two to ten percent up to the one inch stage. For ease of calculation let's use the ten percent figure and that means that by the time the snappers enter the bays there are about 15,000 billion of them. Let us be generous and assume that ten percent are caught up and down the range of territory. That would leave about 1,500 billion by the time they would begin to migrate south. One must remember that although predation has lessened while they have been feeding and growing in the bays, blues, weaks, bass, and fluke have been preying on them. When they migrate the real losses begin for there are hordes of migrating bass, blues, weaks, fluke, tuna, albacore, bonito, marlin, etc., etc., waiting in the open ocean to ambush them. Of course, there is little cover for them. They are vulnerable and cannot hide. Their losses are incredibly high. Viral disease also seems to take millions and maybe even billions in some years. Thus, when all is said and done a few hundred million survive to become adults. The truth is if no snappers were ever taken (hook and line) again, there would be absolutely no effect on the population of bluefish because what fishermen take is only a drop in the bucket!

WE NEED PIERS!! Louis Camurati of Hicksville sent us a rather long letter in which he discussed a number of ideas and feelings. Due to the length of the letter we cannot repeat all of it, so what follows are excerpts. "As the years go by, more and more people are joining the ranks of senior citizens. Many of these citizens like myself, have fished Long Island waters (in many ways) when and where available. What about some fishing piers or special bulkhead areas where people who are handicapped by age, money, and general health conditions can dip a fishing line and enjoy the simple pleasure of catching a few fish and (enjoy) some fresh air." Louis goes on to suggest the south shore bridges as good access points for general public fishing and then goes on to say that he does not believe that the fishing piers at Jones Beach and Captree are adequate because he feels that productivity is poor. First, let me begin my answer by saying that we, at The Fisherman, agree with your comment that we need more public fishing access on Long Island. That's why we urged our politicians many times, going back many years, to support the construction of fishing piers, especially ocean fishing piers on Long Island. In addition, we have requested and suggested through our editorials that more artificial fishing reefs be built to promote the productivity of inshore fishing. We have also gathered data to show that Long Island has not received its fair share of boat launching ramps. Progress has been made on many of these fronts, but alas, we have not been able to make our leaders understand the need for public fishing piers. However, we have made our point with the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission that the State Parks represent some of the best and last hopes for access to saltwater fishing on Long Island. They have expressed to us that they understand this need and that they will do whatever can be done to increase beach access. You seem to be down on the Jones Beach piers, yet many fishermen enjoy good fishing for flounder, snappers, weakfish, bluefish, striped bass and other bottom fishing. Although the piers, like any other fishing area may not be productive all of the time, good quantities of the above species are available at certain times. The size of these fish are often impressive, too. Nonetheless, the need for more piers is obvious and we would like to see priorities for the construction of several ocean piers similar to what southern states have provided for their citizens. It works down there and will work here. The cost of maintaining the piers is absorbed by modest fees charged to use the piers. Bait and tackle is frequently provided at small stores at the head of the piers and in many states, regulation controls pricing in order to avoid abuses. Access to the south shore bridges, even the sides of these bridges, presents many problems that are not readily solved. At some of the bridges, the water channel is very narrow and the construction of piers would possibly interefere with navigation. Then, too, there is really little space for the construction of parking and the access roads needed to support the parking area. In short, it would appear that ocean piers are a better alternative. The prospects for species diversity is greater in the ocean too, and at times, there might be some real blitzes. Your suggestion about building piers somewhere in the Shinnecock and Moriches area is a very good one. There is plenty of space and good fishing possibilities. This proposal, we feel, warrants further study and should receive serious consideration by our legislators. Erosional problems and the cost of construction—points frequently raised in objection to ocean piers—would not apply equally to back-bay piers in Shinnecock and Moriches. As a senior citizen you might want to try your hand at surf fishing. Although the typical blues, and weaks, there is plenty of room for the fisherman who likes to fish daylight hours for porgies, fluke, flounder, kingfish, and weaks along with blackfish and other species. Rest assured that we will continue to keep plugging away (no pun intended) for fishing piers for all our citizens.

THE BIG ONES! Eric Cisar of Brooklyn recently asked a very popular question. "I like all of your articles about tackle. From your articles I learned to tie bucktails and how to fix rods and reels. So I ask, how do you catch the big ones? I mean, I go (fishing) at least once every three weeks, usually on a party boat. This summer I caught only seven fluke in twelve fishing trips. These

fish were generally small. The biggest fish I have ever caught was a three pound sea bass. Once I caught fourteen fish on one trip, but that was the best trip. Please tell me how to catch more and bigger fish." First let me say that if you keep reading The Long Island Fisherman, you're bound to catch bigger and more fish beause many of our articles contain information about catching bigger fish and almost all contain information on how to catch more fish. That's one of the reasons for our existence. However, it takes time to become proficient. Read Matt Ahern's articles. He frequently talks about the years of experience, study, and application required to become a master fisherman. I direct you to Matt because the species you talk about are bottom species and Matt is one of the best with those critters. Many readers have learned a great deal from Matt's articles and you can, too. Matt, maybe you want to respond to this question in one of your columns? However, let me add a few thoughts of my own since catching more and bigger fish is a goal of fishermen regardless of the techniques they use or the place where they fish. First, I must point out that although you seem to think that fishing once every two months or once every three weeks is a lot, it isn't really much at all. It's like learning to do any sport or skill. You have to practice often and most really top-notch fishermen fish several times a week at least! So here's my thoughts. First, study as much as you can: read, read, read! Absorb what you can and then try to use those ideas when you go fishing. Second, try to gather a variety of quality tackle. Take care of it and learn to use the right tackle for the right job. Much of this comes from experience, but much can also be gleaned from reading and talking to older, more experienced fishermen. Third, be patient since it takes time to learn these skills and time to learn when, how, and where to apply them. Fourth, use your powers of analysis. Look around, take in what you see and hear, and then think it through. Come to conclusions and develop theories. Then test those theories. Fifth, and most important of all, put your time in. There is no substitute for being there. The more time you spend fishing, the more people you can talk to and learn from, the more different fishing situations you'll be exposed to, the more practice you'll have, and the more fish you'll catch. We all start somewhere and it's usually at the bottom of the totem pole. Don't be discouraged because if you keep trying, some day you'll be on top of it!

NEXT WEEK WE'LL ANNOUNCE THE SECOND WINNER IN THE WIN A SHAKESPEARE ROD CONTEST! You can still enter the contest. Just send your comments, ideas, and questions to me, care of The Long Island Fisherman at the address in the front of the magazine. Mark the outside of your envelope in the bottom left-hand corner "Win A Shakespeare."

National Scene:
NWF AWARD TO REIGER

(Continued from page 18.)

harbor with Joe Palumbo, of Atlantic City; Tom Gialanella of Lincroft, and local expert Dr. Mark Williams on Joe's "Rainbow Rascal."

The Owners' Tournament was great fun and every Mako owner should take advantage of the opportunity to compete in one. Within the area there will be tournaments this year at Bricktown, New Jersey, June 27-29 (shark tagging, Huppert Marine, 201-477-0407); Sea Isle City, New Jersey, July 11-13 (billfish, Minmar Marine, 609-263-2201); Freeport, L.I., July 18-20 (Al Grover's Marine Base, 516-378-0538); Oakdale, L.I., August 8-9 (White Water Marine, 516-589-2502); and Rowayton, Ct., September 19-21 (striped bass, The Bait Shop, 203-853-3811). There are loads of trophies, tee shirts, cocktail parties and cook-outs—all for a $25 per boat entry fee. The only rules are that you must fish from a Mako and can't use a guide. Try it—you'll like it!

YOUR RIGHT TO FISH IS BEING ATTACKED

- **Pesticide run-offs, oil spills, industrial wastes, PCBs, acid rains and other man-created pollutants are destroying your fishing.**
- **Commercial fishing operators in some cases have all but ruined sport fishing in certain parts of the country.**
- **Anti-fishing groups are organized and working against you.**

Here's what you can do:
As one person you can't do much. But joined with 33 million other licensed fishermen in the U.S., you can win the battle for your fishing rights. By joining the American Sportfishing Federation, you will be taking the first step to winning that battle.

The American Sportfishing Federation is now being formed. With your help it will become *the* organization to protect your fishing rights. The Federation has the legislative experts, lawyers, biologists, environmentalists and public information people who can effectively help you do this vital job.

The first line of offense for your fishing rights is at your local and state level. Membership in the American Sportfishing Federation automatically makes you a member of your local state Federation. To become a member, fill out the coupon below and mail it, along with $10.

The plus you get for joining now:
With your membership, you receive a cash coupon rebate booklet filled with coupons that are worth hundreds of dollars on brand name fishing equipment.

Act now! Fill in this coupon. Mail in your membership application and fee today!

YES! I want to save fishing and save hundreds of dollars on brand name fishing equipment. Enclosed is my check or money order for $10, made payable to: American Sportfishing Federation.

Mail to: American Sportfishing Federation, P.O. Box 426, Chicago, IL 60690.

(Please print clearly)

FIRST NAME MIDDLE INITIAL LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

I am a member of the following fishing club:

CLUB NAME CITY

Offer good in U.S.A. Consumers only. Allow four to six weeks for processing and delivery. Zip codes must be included to ensure delivery. Offer expires on November 30, 1980.

ASF
American Sportfishing Federation

SPRING COD & POLLACK—

SOUTH OF THE ISLAND

by Ron Onorato

One of the most awaited events of the spring fishing season, is the word that the sand eels are in at Block Island. When the sand eels make their first appearance at Block Island, usually around the end of April or the beginning of May, it means one thing: the cod and pollack are right behind them. This much-heralded event receives almost as much attention as does the arrival of the first school of striped bass. Boats from Montauk, New York, Rhode Island, and even Connecticut, home in on the Block Island grounds once the word gets out that the first schools of sand eels have shown up.

The time of the year when things really get going is usually around the first week of May. Prior to this time, there is usually fair to good codfishing on many of the high spots and reefs that lie south of Block Island. However, these cod are usually caught on clam bait and are found pretty much on the same spots day after day. The water temperature is a little on the cold side and the fish are feeding on the rocky ground where they have a steady diet of crabs, bergalls, lobsters, etc. At this time, there are usually few sand eels in the water, and it is very hard to take fish on jig. Clam bait is the thing to use if you want to be successful.

Whenever the water temperature or other environmental conditions are right, school of huge sand eels show up at different locations around Block Island. This can be anywhere from the middle of April to the beginning of May. The silvery baitfish may stick around for as little as a week, or as long as a month. The length of their stay really doesn't matter, for as soon as the main schools show up, the cod and pollack appear as mysteriously as did the sand eels. It is really quite dramatic as the grounds which held just a few resident fish and were pretty well picked clean by the constant fishing pressure, now come alive with fresh schools of bait and fish. Even the bird life, which was very inactive, also comes to life as sea gulls and terns get in on the feast of sand eels.

In the early stages of the run, when the water temperatures are still on the cool side, small and medium sized codfish will predominate with just an occasional pollack in the catch. As the water temperature gets up a few degrees, the cod begin to taper off, while the pollack begin to come on in force. Towards the end of the run, sometime around the end of May, if the sand eels are still around, the catch may consist entirely of big pollack, and there is nothing wrong with that.

Pollack are the big attraction in May, especially when sand eels are around in numbers.

Every spring differs from the preceding one as far as the fishing goes; so it is virtually impossible to predict what sort of fishing there might be, based on the prior year's action. For example, spring, 1977 was absolutely phenomenal as the sand eels were around for almost a full month and both cod and pollack fishing was exceptional. In the spring of 1978, the sand eels were very scarce and only showed up for a couple of days at a time. It was pretty much a one-day shot at the pollack, before they were gone. On the other hand, baitfishing for cod with clams was very good throughout May as the fish went back to the rocky ground to feed. The spring of 1979 was a little better, as the sand eels hung around for couple of days at a time, and there were a couple back-to-back days for both cod and pollack around the beginning of May. The pollack were big and mean, while the cod were very small. In fact, you were hard pressed to find a cod over twenty pounds on the Block Island grounds, but there were an awful lot of five to eight pound fish.

The key to locating the schools of cod and pollack was locating the schools of sand eels, and on many days this was easier said than done. On some days, it was just a matter of running a mile or so south of Block Island and looking for some terns or gulls picking on the water. This was a very good sign since the sand eels would be up, and this usually meant that the cod and pollack were driving them up. Often, however, there would be no bird life and you had to locate the schools of bait with the use of the paper depth recorder. You would have to look around with the paper recorder on and hope to locate the concentrations of bait. If the weater was nice, it would be easier to do since there would probably be several other boats in the area and you could keep an eye on them.

The most difficult part of this fishing was locating the schools of baitfish. Catching the fish once you've located them is really quite easy. The fish are feeding heavily and are very receptive to a well presented diamond jig or tube lure. Anything that represented a sand eel would be gobbled down in short order: plain diamond jigs, jigs with tube lures, Tri-Fin sand eel jigs, and small tubes placed ahead of the jig all worked very well. When the fish were eating the sand eels, you would be hard pressed to take a fish on clam bait.

It took a little practice to get used to fishing the jigs, especially for the cod. When you're used to jigging for the other species such as bass, blues, and weaks, you're conditioned to a pretty fast retrieve. However, when fishing for cod on jigs, to get any sort of decent hookup rate, the jig is going to have to be worked **very** slowly and kept nearer to the bottom unless the fish are clearly near the surface. Cod, despite their voraciousness in feeding on the sand eels, will still pretty much hang out near the bottom. Pollack, on the other hand, will be apt to be feeding at virtually any level of water, especially at the mid-level water depths. The pollack are also more receptive to a jig that is worked a little more quickly.

The size and weight of the jig will be determined by water depth, wind speed and current speed. Forget

about the small jigs when fishing out here. The lightest jig that you'll be able to fish is a six ounce piece of metal. More often than not, it will be an eight ounce jig that gets the job done. The water depth can vary from as shallow as forty-five feet to as deep as ninety feet. In order to get the best possible feel of the jig and bottom, it pays to use the lightest possible line that you feel comfortable with. I would say that twenty pound mono will be the best thing to use, since the fine line diameter will allow the least amount of water resistance and this gives you the choice of using a lighter jig. There is no way in hell you should break twenty pound mono on even the biggest of pollack that you might encounter. If the thin line makes you uncomfortable, then you can move up to twenty-five pound mono without too much difficulty. Going up to thirty pound mono will not allow you the use of the lighter jig, and on a windy day, you might have to go to some real heavy metal with the heavier mono line. When using the lighter mono, just make sure that the line is free of nicks and cuts, and check your knots occasionally.

While some anglers liked to fish just a plain jig, it was those fishermen who added a tube or couple of tubes ahead of the jig, that had the better action. It was not their intent that they catch two or three fish at a time, though this was possible when the fish were heavy, but rather give the impression that a small school of sand eels was in the area. The sight of two, three, or more lures being whipped through the water seemed to excite the fish more, and the multiple tube rigs in most cases outfished the single jig.

Making the multiple tube rig is basically very simple. You start out with a three or four foot length of fifty pound mono. To one end, you tie on the diamond jig or sand eel jig. About twelve inches above the jig make a loop in the line and attach a small red, green, or white tube lure. If you want, you can make another loop twelves inches above the first tube lure and attach a second tube. To the remaining end of the mono line you tie on a two hundred pound test black barrel swivel. The swivel will prevent the whole rig from twisting and will give the lures the free spinning mobility that they need to look natural.

You're going to be fishing this rig at varying levels of water depths until you start hooking up. As mentioned earlier, for cod this will be most likely within ten to twenty feet of the bottom. One of the key points of this jig fishing is the ability to get the jig off the bottom quickly once it hits. This serves a twofold purpose: first, most of the ground over which you are fishing will be extremely rocky, so if the jig is not immediately retrieved, it will probably hang up on the rocks and you'll end up losing the whole rig. Secondly, if you let the jig drag around the bottom for any length of time, it will not look natural to any fish that might be in the area. The instant that the rig touches bottom, it should be retrieved. For the most part, the Penn Squidder reel is a good choice to use for this kind

When the cod are thick double-headers are not uncommon, as George Oliver shows.

The end result of a day's work with jigs and tubes.

of fishing. If you have an accurate bottom recorder, the schools of sand eels will often be printed out on the paper at varying levels of water. If you mark bait readings well off the bottom, then you most certainly should work your jig right through the level where the bait was marked. Don't be afraid to work the rig right to the surface, especially on calm days where the bait and fish tend to feed. If there are very scattered bait readings, then try to concentrate on the bottom with the jig. You'll find that a stiff moving tide produces the most consistent action. It seems that the tube rig has better action when there is a bit of line out and the retrieve is at a 45° angle away from the boat. Straight up and down retrieves do not produce the same results, unless you're right on top of a massive school of fish, which can happen at times. Under normal conditions however, when the fish are spaced apart a little, the more angle that the jig has, the greater the effectiveness of it. Usually the jig will get the hit and hook-up, but sometimes the tube will get the fish. The cod will almost always go for the metal, while the pollack prefer the tube. When you get a double hook-up, and it will usually be a pollack, it seems that after the first fish is hooked up, the pollack will see the commotion, and grab one of the free swimming tube lures. A codfish on the jig and a big pollack on the tube lure is not uncommon at all, and when this happens, you're really in for some fune.

Once the water temperature starts getting up into the upper forties and the lower fifties, the fish become very active and will chase the bait from one end of Block Island to the other. Therefore, it can be a little difficult to locate the schools from day to day. However, there are some spots that will usually hold fish from time to time, and you have to go through all of them sometimes before you can connect with the fish. Sometimes one spot that was dead on one tide, will turn around and come to life on the very next tide. On any trip to Block Island, the first stop to be made is at the Sub Buoy. The big rip near the buoy is a good holding spot for the sand eels, and very often there is some nice jig fishing for cod, although pollack are very seldom found here. A little further to the southeast, is the area known as Southwest Ledge, and it is here that some very fine codfishing can be found. For the most part, the cod are very small, but they are sometimes very numerous. Sometimes big pollack breeze through this area, but only when the sand eels are heavy. If you're looking for some bigger cod and pollack, the place to go is south of the Island anywhere from fifty to sixty feet of water right off the beach to the one hundred foot depths of Shark's Ledge some four miles off Block Island. The cod and pollack can be found anywhere in this area on a day to day basis; so it's up to you to find them. About the only thing that can hang you up at this time of the year, is the weather and high winds which can be very dangerous at the Island, especially in wind against the tide situations.

DO'S & DON'TS—

FISHING FROM RENTAL SKIFFS

by Sal Terranova

By the time you read this, the flounder will have emerged from the muddy bottoms of our bays to once again herald the start of another fishing season here on Long Island. With the coming of St. Patrick's Day, Old Man Winter released his icy grip on our waters, and once again, the arrival of spring beckons hordes of winter-weary anglers to invade our bays in search of flounder. Fishing aboard vessels ranging from luxurious party boats equipped with all the trappings of home to tiny skiffs completely exposed to the elements, anglers will bounce their sinkers off the bottom, awakening even the most recalcitrant among the flounder population. Yes, spring is here and it's time for all good flounder to yawn, stretch their fins, shake off the mud and scurry off in search of sustenance after a long winter's sleep.

Since flounder mainly frequent bay waters, they are a primary target for anglers who fish from rental skiffs, especially in the early spring when virtually nothing else is available, save for some tommycod here and there. Come May, rental skiff fishermen get their best licks in with the big weakfish that come in to spawn in Great South Bay and the Peconics. After the departure of the weaks, fluke and blackfish take up the slack, with the fluke staying on throughout the summer and serving as the skiff fisherman's diet staple. Porgies, kingfish, blueclaw crabs, blowfish and snappers complement the skiff angler's menu during the dog days, while occasionally one to three pound Harbor blues pop up unexpectedly to provide some hectic action. Come fall, however, the skiff fisherman is left with only the flounder and a few blackfish to pursue.

Skiff fishing can prove to be one of the most relaxing and pleasant ways to participate in the sport of angling. Away from the crowds that frequent party boats, you can merrily drift along our beautiful bays in search of fluke, while taking in the magnificent scenery under a clear blue sky as balmy breezes caress your cheecks. What else can be so peaceful and relaxing? Breathing invigorating salt air out on the water, worries, work, world troubles, Monday morning traffic, crowded cities and their hustle and bustle all seem a million miles away! Just you and your buddies, masters of your own craft, fishing whatever spot you please among the islets and marshy sod banks where the reeds sway to and fro in the wind, keeping time to the sea gull's song.

Some of the most pleasant memories of my youth revolve around skiff fishing. A buddy of mine and myself would rent a skiff out of a station near his aunt's house in the Shinnecock Bay area. After having caught our own supply of killies or spearing, we would go fluking out on the bay. If the fluke weren't cooperative, we would try for snappers. If that proved a bust, which was rarely the case, we would go clamming or crabbing. Sometimes we would just while away the hours, beaching our skiff on some islet or uninhabited shore and go exploring among the reeds. What treasures we would find! Beautiful shells of all sizes and shapes, foot long sandworms perfect for bass fishing. Most of all however, we got to observe firsthand the tidal ecosystem and all the marvelous creatures it nurtures. Those were the days!

At any rate, skiff fishing can surely be an effective and pleasurable way to catch fish. It is a type of fishing that puts you in close contact with the elements and forces you to acquire a working knowledge of tides and the habits of fish in order to score, for **you** are the captain and if you don't know why you should fish where and how to best go about it, you aren't going to have much luck. So to assist those of you who have done little or no skiff fishing, I am going to pass along a few tips on what to bring along and how to keep out of trouble when you fish aboard a rental skiff.

I do most of my skiff-fishing in the spring, when the flounder and the weakfish are biting. Every spring, I witness the same mishaps and misunderstandings, and hear the same tales of woe told by inexperienced skiff anglers. Most of these misfortunates could have been prevented by either using a little common sense or by taking a couple of minutes to get some information from experienced anglers or station operators ahead of time.

Let me give you some examples: a poor unfortunate drives all the way from The Bronx to Noyac Bay on a May weekend during the height of the spring weakfish run, only to find that every skiff has been rented, and that the same situation exists at all nearby fishing stations. A phone call to the station ahead of time would have prevented this. Another three unfortunates neglected to bring along rods and reels, for they were under the impression that the station would include those items with the price of the boat and motor. Again, a phone call would have prevented this. Out on the water, three young men in T-shirts and sweaters are pulling in flounder as if there was no tomorrow and are hating every minute of it. Why? It seems as though the weather has turned to rain, but since the weatherman had "promised" a sunny spring afternoon, why bring rain gear? Another crew of heroes who have drunk more than their share of beer almost sail out an inlet and into the sea during a thick fog. Fortunately, a passing vessel warns them and puts them onto the right track to the fishing station, which they should find once the fog lifts. Any old compass and a map would have prevented them from nearly sailing out to sea. As a proud angler returns to the dock with a bucketful of the nicest flounder anywhere in his skiff, another unfortunate is heard to remark: "Gee, I was fishing right next to that guy, but I only caught seven flounder." When asked if he used a chum pot, the answer is invariably: "Oh no! Those things are such a mess!" The list could go on and on, but you get the point. So without further ado, let's take a look at the do's and don'ts of rental skiff fishing.

Skiffs are open rowboats averaging sixteen feet in length. They are available for rental on a daily basis (usually from 6AM to 5PM) from the many fishing stations that dot the shores of Long Island. You can rent a skiff and an outboard motor to power it for circa $30 from any station, although the price may vary somewhat at certain stations. The motors the station provides are nine-and-a-half or ten horsepower outboards in reasonably good shape—though some may have seen better days. If a nine-and-a-half horsepower kicker is a mite slow for your taste, some stations may have a limited

number of larger engines available—up to an eighteen horsepower. Of course, you will have to pay a few bucks extra for this convenience. If you happen to own an outboard motor in the nine-and-a-half to eighteen horsepower range, you can bring it along and pay only for the rental of the boat, which will be approximately half of the cost quoted above.

A telephone call to a fishing station beforehand to confirm details and reserve a boat is always a good idea. Reservations are advisable for any skiff expeditions planned for a weekend, and are a **must** for weekends during certain runs of fish. Anglers planning to fish on the weekend in the Peconics during the height of the weakfish run in May often secure skiff reservations a week or more beforehand. For a weekday trip, reservations are often not necessary, but it is still wise to call the station ahead of time to get an idea of how the fishing has been, where they're biting, and what they're biting on. The stations, of course, have up-to-the-minute information concerning the action. It is also smart to call in advance if you want to rent a larger engine or confirm any other of the myriad details that may concern you, such as prices or directions to the station.

Apart from the boat and motor, the following items are also included in the basic $30 fee: enough gas for a day's fishing (provided you don't intend to sail from the Peconics to Montauk!); two oars in case of engine failure; a bailer; bait-cutting boards; an anchor with about fifty feet of line, and a seat cushion Personal Flotation Device for each member of your party. A skiff can hold up to five adults safely, but for comfort's sake, three is ideal.

What the rental fee doesn't cover includes bait and terminal tackle, which the station will sell to you at extra cost, and rods, reels, and landing nets, which you will have to bring along from home. Some fishing stations may offer these items for sale. However, the selection of tackle available and prices usually leaves much to be desired.

A good pair of waterproof boots and an even better set of foul weather gear are absolutely necessary if you plan on doing any serious amount of skiff fishing. Regardless of whether you intend to fish for fluke in July or flounder in March, these two items are a must! It is also wise to bring along some extra clothing packed in a waterproof rucksack at any time of year, but more so in the early spring or late fall. To paraphrase an old fishermen's saying, if it gets too hot you can always take if off, but if it gets too cold and you don't have extra clothing, the result is obvious. Concerning foul weather gear, some may question the need for it, especially those who intend to restrict their fishing to the sunny days of May or the dog days of summer. Unfortunately, the sunny days of May are not always sunny, while a thunder shower often accompanies a sultry summer afternoon. Even on a beautiful spring day in May, the water is still quite cold. The movement of a skiff traveling against a breeze will definitely cause spray to come flying over the bow, and into the faces of all concerned. Without foul weather gear, you will be soaked to the gills in no time at all. Believe me, sitting in an open boat all day long soaking wet, with a breeze blowing to "warm" the cockles of your heart, will most surely result in your restricting future fishing trips to party boats with heated cabins!

Apart from keeping you dry, foul weather gear is a very good windbreaker. Its impermeable nature will retain the heat generated by your body and trapped by the clothing you're wearing. As far as clothing goes, it is much better to wear several thin layers of clothing than, say, just a shirt with a heavy jacket over it. If you intend to fish for flounder in the early spring when it can still be quite cold, layer your clothing in the following fashion: a thermal undershirt, followed by a flannel work shirt, with either a pullover sweater or a hooded sweatshirt over that, topped off with a roomy coat that is not too heavy. If this combination doesn't suffice to keep you warm, put your foul weather gear on to serve as a windbreaker. You will now be as snug as the proverbial bug in the rug. Each of the five layers of clothing will serve to retain the heat generated by your body and trapped by the previous layer of clothing, whereas a heavy jacket over a shirt will not accomplish this, and will have a tendency to let the wind sneak in down your neck or up your back. Of course, if you're fishing for porgies in August, you won't need all this clothing, but even then, it pays to bring along an extra sweater or light jacket.

One more word about foul weather gear. If you plan to do a lot of saltwater fishing, whether from a skiff, party boat, or your own craft, invest in the best rain gear money can buy. In my estimation, Helly Hansen foul weather gear is the best. True, a set of Helly Hansen top and bottoms will put you back about $60, but they are well worth it, for they will last for years. Don't be foolish and buy a cheapo $11.99 "Made in Mung-Dung" set of rain gear, for these will probably not make it through a season, and have an uncanny knack for falling apart at the most inopportune moment. What you may think is a saving will, in the long run, prove to be a waste, for you will be replacing rain gear every year if you insist on buying rain gear of slipshod manufacture—not to mention the aggravation involved. I've owned a set of Helly Hansens for over five years, and except for a small puncture caused by a careless angler's hook, they're still as good as new. The majority of commercial fishermen and partyboat mates swear by Helly Hansen rain gear. Believe me, my intention is to inform you of what is the best gear and not to give Helly Hansen a free plug—for they don't need it anyway. Don't be penny wise and pound foolish!

Since you may be out on the water fishing on a skiff for a period up to ten hours, it stands to reason you should bring something to eat and drink. Most folks bring sandwiches, which are fine, but be certain they are wrapped in waterproof plastic baggies and kept in a container where they will remain dry. I am hard-pressed to think of anything as unappetizing as a soggy, brine-soaked ham and cheese hero. As far as drink goes, canned soda or beer is fine. I must admit there is nothing as refreshing as an ice cold beer on a hot summer's day, but please don't overdo it. Afloat on a small boat is no place to be without the full possession of all your senses. I would suggest that any hard liquors such as Scotch or Vodka best be left at home. You would not drive a car stoned out of your skull—why should a boat be any different? Incidentally, this advice also applies to anyone who is inclined to puff on funny-looking cigarettes.

A small hand compass will prevent you from losing your way in a thick fog while fishing.

Promised Land Flounder

by Bob Hunt

"That rotten kid did it again!" Mike yelled, looking at his son Jimmy. As I turned around, there was Jimmy holding up two flounders, both over two pounds each! This scene has been repeated every year. We set Jimmy's line up first; then we open mussels, get the chum ready, bait up—and like clockwork, Jimmy catches two fish before we get our lines in the water.

Flounder fishing is like this every year in the Promised Land area. My brother-in-law Mike Vicino and his son Jimmy and I have made this an annual freezer-filling trip for flounder. Every spring we trailer Mike's sixteen foot boat and launch it at the Town of Southampton ramp on Napeague Bay. Promised Land and Napeague Bay are located just west of Hither Hills State Park and East of the Town of Amagansett.

The waters around Promised Land are probably the cleanest on the Island. Don't think the water at the boat ramp is shallow just because you can see the bottom. It's just clean, clean water. You're just not used to seeing bottom in ten feet of water!

Flounder start biting around mid-April and taper off in early May. These are sea-run fish and the sizes run from one pound to over four. Every trip usually includes a few fish over three pounds. As a bonus, you can also catch big blackfish, particularly in the Gardiner's Island area.

The Promised Land boat ramp is located on Lazy Point Road. You can also reach the Promised Land area by boat from Three Mile Harbor to the west or Montauk to the east. The Promised Land boat ramp is a concrete strip leading into the water. You'll need hip boots to make the launch a dry one.

The one and only bait and chum to use is mussels. You'll need a half bushel for a full day's fishing. There are two techniques for catching fish at Promised Land. The first is probably the more familiar and that is finding a good location and chumming the fish up. Double anchoring is a necessity since the water is often deep.

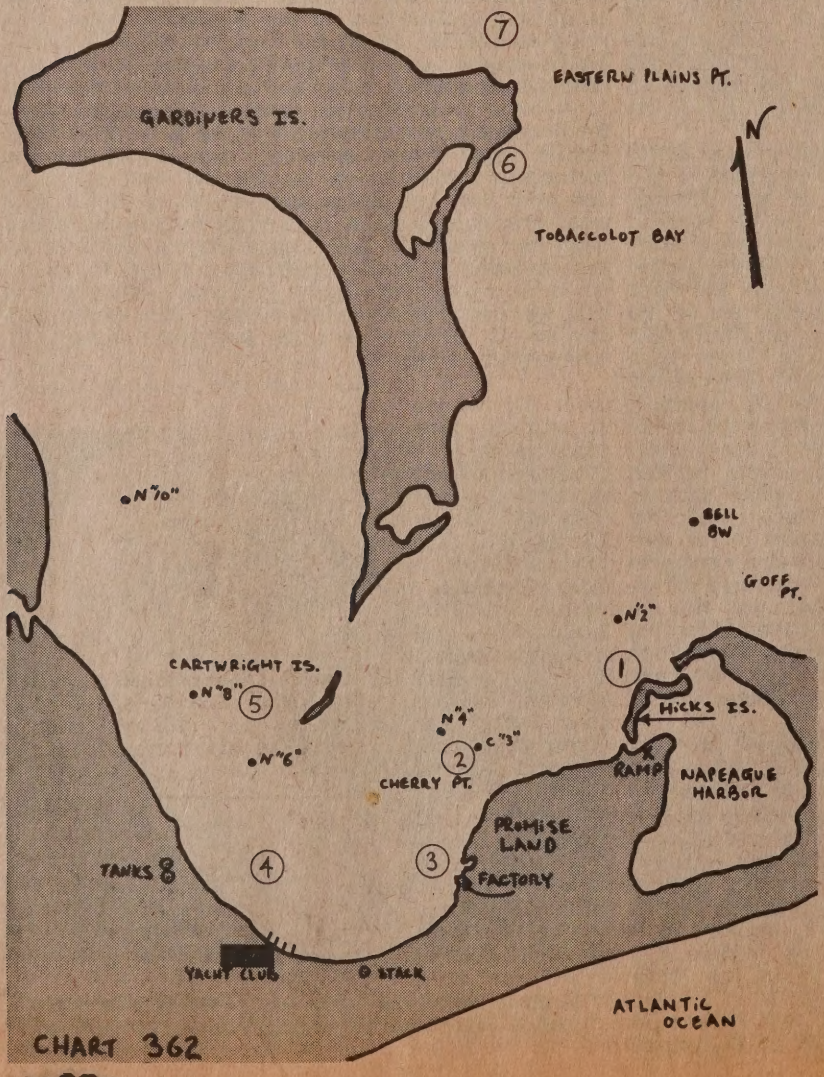
The second technique is one not many flounder anglers know of and that's drifting. These sea-run fish move around and you have to find out where they are. Make a series of drifts until you hit fish. If you catch fish, mark the spot with a buoy and then anchor up and chum the area. Chum heavy at first, then taper off so you don't feed the fish.

The basic rigs for these big flounders are a little larger than usual. A #5 or #6 Chestertown hook is used. Two hooks tied in tandem, three inches above a yellow painted bank sinker and you're in business. If you want to catch blackfish, add a blackfish hook eighteen inches above the sinker and bait it with clam. A trick for flounder is to bounce the sinker six times, then lift slowly about a foot off the bottom. The flounder usually will hit your baits and swim to the bottom almost yanking the rod from your hand. Light spinning tackle is useless for these fish. A small to medium conventional boat rod and reel is ideal. Use no lighter than 20# test mono to avoid the "stretch" when setting the hook.

Some of the regular "hotspots" to try are as follows:

1. The Chimney: Hicks Island is barren except for a lone brick chimney near the beach. About 100 yards north of the chimney is a twenty-five foot deep hole. It is a

(Continued on page 49.)

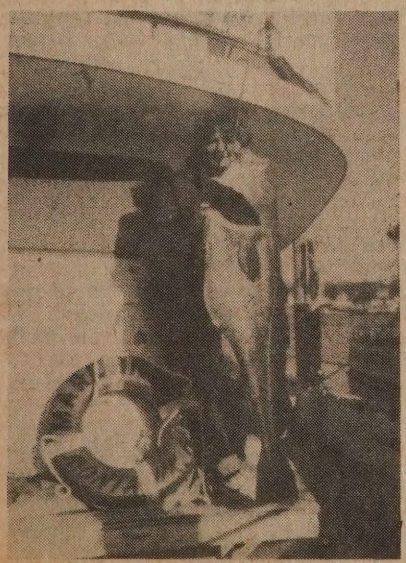


MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

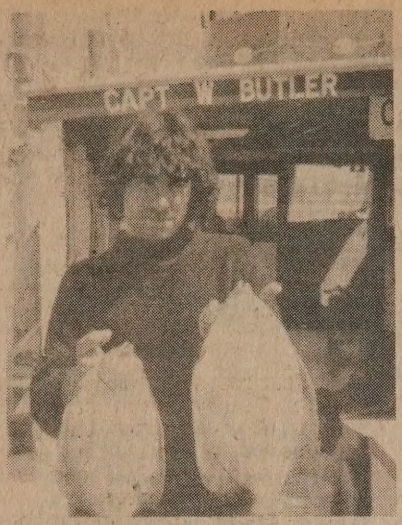
Captain Wayne King of the chater boat **King Wayne** called to say Saturday's charter for the Sunday Hookers Fishing Club blasted away at 1-2½ lb. flounders at Gardiner's and also took a nice quantity of fish at Gin Beach. Charlie Sullivan took the pool with a 2½ lb. fish. This was all on mussel and clam bait. Sunday's codfish charter for William Supp and group of Shoreham worked Southwest Ledge in the morning and south of Block Island in the afternoon to the tune of 2-6 cod a man, fish going into the 30s.

The **Marlin IV** and **V** reports a 54½ lb. cod was taken on 30 lb. test line on April 17 by Margaret Fischer of Seaford. This catch is being entered as a possible IGFA record fo for women. Fishing has been very good for the last two weeks. Saturday the feeding pattern for the cod changed and only 70 cod were taken for 60 people. Sunday bounced abak, however, with 55 fares bagging 120 cod, 8 of which were 30 lbs. and over. Captain Rade advises that all tickets have been sold for Saturday, April 26.

Captain John Sweetman of the charter boat **Ebb Tide** advises that now is the time to come out and fish Montauk. John said sea flounders, cod and pollack are at their best in the spring and with so many fish



This 54 lb. monster was taken by Margaret Fisher aboard Capt. Richie Rade's Marlin V out of Montauk. The big cod is a possible women's I.G.F.A. record on 30 lb. test.



Albert Mantel and a couple of typical Montauk sea flounders caught on the open boat Capt. Willie.

available, motel rates at their lowest and charter rates at their lowest for the year, true anglers would be well advised to make their trips east now.

Captain Ron Grandinetti's charter boat **Julie III** for Saturday's and Sunday's charters totaled 56 cod, a 22 lb. pollack, and a 4½ lb. flounder fishing Southwest Ledge and the south side of the Point in clam.

Captain Paul Sundberg of the charter boat **Big Blue** called to say that Saturday's charter for Bob Lapollo of Jackson Hgts., and group totalled 54 cod and pollack—all big fish from 25-40 lbs. Total weight was over 1000 lbs. on jigs at the CIA Grounds. Sunday's charter out after pollack found a dozen of them in a half-day trip. Paul says the action is NOW. So come on out and get in on some terrific Montauk action.

Capt. Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that although there was a big sea on Wednesday that slowed the fishing somewhat, the anglers that worked at hit caught between 5 and 11 fish for the most part of the week. Sunday's fishing was much better than Saturday's and was outstanding. Everybody caught fish. Ed Feret of East Meadow had 17 cod totaling 240 lbs.; Willie Thomas of Brooklyn had 17 cod totaling 210 lbs.; and Gary Williams of Brooklyn had 14 cod totaling 195 lbs. A few 18-20 lb. cod pollack were scattered throughout the catch. Clam baits and diamond jigs were used.

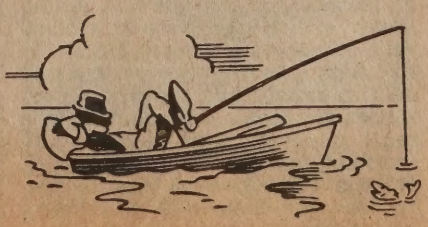
Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the codfishing on the weekend was very good for most boats that went south of Cartwright to the CIA grounds. Henry said that 8 boats sailed from the marina on the weekend, and both the "Marie III" and the "Cutlet" made good scores.

Capt. John Demayo of the charter boat **Vivienne** reported that the codfishing was good to very good fishing the inshore waters of Montauk and Block Island. Catches ranged from 20 to 40 cod per trip, largest 40 lbs. John said that he is marking a lot more fish than are evidenced by the catches, a good sign that some real blitz fishing may be in offing.

Viking Fleet reports very good cod fishing now off of the Block Island grounds, fish coming in anywhere from 10 to 40 lb. specimens with fares bagging up at the rate of 6 to 12 fish a man all on bait. Don't forget that the first Nantucket Wreck trip will be sailing from Montauk, May 26th. See ad for details.

Capt. Fred Bird of the **Flying Cloud** called to tell us that the boat is ready to roll for the 1980 season. He will be sailing open boat 6 a.m. Monday-Friday, 5 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, for cod, pollack, snowshoes, and blacks and will also be accepting large charters. Fred says the cod fishing looks very good right now with big fish being brought in every day and lots of 'em.

Some of the fish taken aboard the Viking Starship's second Tortugas trip in the Florida Keys. The trip was a fantastic success.



SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

Thom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** described the flounder fishing in the area as generally slow on Saturday. He said action improved considerably on Sunday. Best action seems to be east in the vicinity of Three Mile Harbor. Walter Bohnenberger and John Anthony totaled 113 flounder from 2 to 3½ lbs. over Friday and Saturday fishing near Aquebonac. The pair fished with worms, clams and mussel chum. Tom Theuret, his father George and six year old Jason Stath fished Promised Land on Saturday and Sunday using mussels, clams and corn and mussel chum. The trio landed 29 flatties Saturday and 72 on Sunday. The fish were all huge, running from 1 to 3¼ lbs. with the average being close to 2 lbs. Young Jason lead the way with 4 double headers on Sunday.

HAMPTON BAYS

At **Corr's Fishing Station**, Mickey reported that the flounder have moved up into the vicinity of the basket grounds and East channel. Over the weekend boats averaged anywhere from 30 to 75 nice fish up to 2½ lbs. Worms and mussels produced best with most of the action on incoming water.

MORICHES BAY

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** tells us that Pat and Sam Ambrico and Rick Ziccarvi had 62 flounder Saturday fishing the mouth of Seatuck Cove with mussels and sand worm and mussel chum on the flood. On Sunday, Jim and Steve Micolo worked the area north of buoy 42 boating 65 flounders on mussels as hook bait and chum. Tides were favorable on the weekend and those who stuck it out in one spot and chummed heavily did best. Very few midgets. Lots of 2 lb. fish and average catch per boat was 40-50 good keepers.

Andy at **Seatick Cove Fishing Station** tells of good flounder fishing on the weekend with the fish getting larger now. Keepers are at a 50-50 ratio now and are running 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. Best action has been at buoy 42 at the mouth of Seatuck Cove. Bloods and sands with chumming a must, preferably with mussels on an incoming tide. Joe Fett of Secaucus, NJ and Sal Veccia of Woodbridge, NJ between them had 40 keepers

This catch of 81 flounder was made northeast of Buoy 42 on bloodworms and mussel chum by Dennis Wagner and Ricky Cimins. Photo courtesy of Seatuck Cove Fishing Station.

taken from the mouth of Seatuck Cove on bloods and clam chum Sunday. Thirty-five to 40 flounder was the average per boat.

Silly Lily Fishing Station tells us catches were off over the weekend due to strong winds and low tides, but nonetheless, some good catches were made. Jim Crowder and 8 yr. old son Chris of Melville bagged a bucketful on Saturday with some hitting 1½ lbs. Sunday was a better day as evidenced by Medford angler Don Mahoney's catch, all alone, of 35 fat flounders. Best action was behind buoys 39 and 42 on worm and clam with chumming a must, both tides working.

Bill of **East Moriches Bait & Tackle** reported that John Aufenanger Sr., John Jr. and his son John fished the buoy 42 area on Saturday and totaled 62 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. The fished with bloodworm bait and used clams and mussels for chum. Bill said that quite a few boats have been averaging 40 fish apiece. On Sunday, Pete Miglionico and his son PJ wandered out to 70' of water south of the inlet and in 3 hrs. time put away 80 mackerel in the 1 to 2 lb. class.

Chet at **B&B Tackle** tells us that flounder fishing has been off a bit over the weekend but still remains good and that fish are now hitting blood and sandworms mostly in the flats. A few mackerel has succombed the area of the sea buoy. A few small 2½ lb. class weakfish have been taken on sandworms at Smith Point so the weakfish season seems to be nearly upon us.

Cheryl of **Westhampton Marine Supply** said that flounder fishing has been holding up pretty well in the area. She knew of one fine catch made over the weekend by Adam Kidel and his Dad Henry of Riverdale, NY. They fished near buoy 7A in the Quogue Canal and took 64 flounder along with a half dozen tommy cod and sea bass on sandworm bait.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stritz's Fishing Station** tells us that the flounders have started over the weekend from buoy 17 to 9, fish in the 1 to 2 lb. category. Rentals skiffs are averaging 30 to 40 a boat with very few throwbacks. Catches are being made on both tides on bloods, sands and mussels.

SAYVILLE

Young's Fishing Station reported the flounder fishing was a little slow, eather fine, but fish not cooperating. Friday Steve Cohn, Clay Hardman and Mickey Barbaro, all from Sayville had 25 flounders. They fished all over Cherry Grove, Point O'Woods, Heckscher State Park, LaSalle Military Academy. Also on Friday, Dick Ebnoski and a local fellow named Scoby had 24 flounders at Heckscher State Park on clam and night crawlers in the early morning.

WEST SAYVILLE

Vinnie at **South Bay Fishing Station** reported a good showing of small bass and weakfish in the east bay by gillnetters. For flounder fishing he said that there is good fishing to have off of Cherry Grove and Barrett Beach but that anglers must get up on the flats. Bigger

Stan Wasserfall of Brooklyn with 76 keeper flounder taken on mussel bait and chum aboard a rental skiff from Skidmore's Fishing Station.

boats are handicapped because the best scores are now being made in shoal water. Some of his rental boats took as many as 60 fish. Eels are in good supply now in some parts of the bay. Some of the better scores over the weekend were made by Jim Walsh and Gary McDonald. They had 55 keepers on worms and mussel chum near Cherry Grove. George Sparacio and his wife Patty took 35 nice fish off of Barrett Beach on Saturday. Also Kim Young and Larry Gentaomu filled a five gallon pail off of Cherry Grove. They had fish up to 2 lbs.

EAST ISLIP

Wally at **Buoy 2 Sport Shop** reported flounder fishing over the weekend was pretty slow. He's heard of some weakfish taken by gillnetters in the bay but no word yet on any hook and line fish.

BAY SHORE

Linda of **Smokey's Bait & Tackle** reported a catch of 28 flounder from ¾ to 1 lb. 10 oz. made by Surfside 3 Tuna Club members Rich Ferri, Ray Whitman and Smitty aboard the Rum And Coke II. The trio fished the Babylon cut. Another trio of Surfside 3 Tuna Club members, Pete Sindone, Rich Bauer and Freddie Fromano took 30 fish from the buoy 8 area on worms and clams. Dick Losse and Vinnie aboard the Pisces also fished in the vicinity of buoy 8 and took 15 nice flatties before breaking down.

The **Casey Lee** reports fair fishing this past week with Thursday being the best day; catches averaging 8-10 keepers a person. Fish averaged 3/4 to 1¼ lbs., with best areas being from buoy 2 to West Island plus Champlains Sleway. Catches were on worm, clam and red clam on all moving water.

CAPTREE

The open boat **Capt. Ben Litwin** reported that flounder fishing was off this past weekend. Those fish that are being taken however have been nice size. A flounder taken aboard the vessel is still the leader in the seasonal flounder pool worth $500.00.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** reported that on Saturday he travelled way down to the east in search of a decent pick of flounders and found nothing. On Sunday, some fish were located off of Cedar Beach in Fire Island Inlet and fares managed to get in some pretty fair fishing. Speedy will be switching over to mackerel for this coming weekend.

The open boat **Capt Gillen** described flounder fishing in the bay as very spotty. Saturday was a real tough day for everyone while on Sunday fishing improved slightly. The one consolation being that the fish are nice size.

Noel of the **Captree Bait Station** said that anglers have been taking a few flounder from the piers on worms. He was much more enthused about a nice catch of blackfish made on one of the bay wrecks. The fish are taken by a private boatmen and ran up to 5 lbs. in weight. Noel will be stocking fiddler crabs for this coming weekend.

Captain Dave Brennan of the **Capt. Leo D** fished west of the Great South Bay Bridge and had fair sized fish. Fishing was picky, with just a few being caught on each drop. Dave says there seems to be some life in the Sore Thumb area on the end of the flood.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports that Friday's charter had some decent flounder fishing way to the east off Patchogue. Saturday's charter was slower working the same area. Sunday saw excellent flounder catches made on the boat, with approximately 350 flatties being picked up at the "old inlet," fish 3/4 to 1¼ lbs. on moving water on worm, regular clam and red clam.

The **Captree Queen II** had fair

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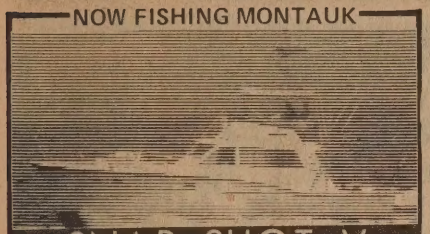

SNAP SHOT V

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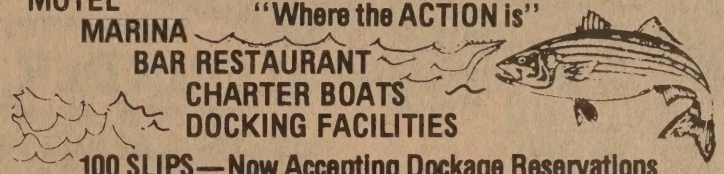

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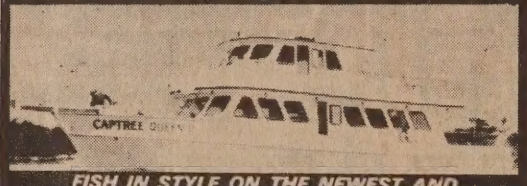

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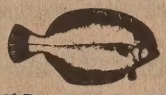

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Sails from Brewer's Marina (128 Shore Rd.)
Exit 39N on L.I.E. (Glen Cove Rd.) to end. Left turn & then right turn at 2nd lite onto Shore Rd.

catches of flounder during the week but things cooled off considerably on the weekend due to the strong southwest winds.

BABYLON

Charlie's Fishing Station said that there was some fair catches of flounder made on the Babylon clam flats and also off of Bergen Point. The fish that are being taken are nice and fat and they are showing a preference for worms and clams.

Hal at **Augie's Bait & Tackle** used the word "slow" to describe flounder fishing in the area. He did have a report of one private boat taking 10 mackerel southwest of the inlet in 65' of water. He also knew that one of the local gillnetters has been shipping weakfish and bunkers to market the last couple of days. Hal asked us to inform customers that for the next couple of weeks they will be closed Monday-Thursday while renovations are being made to the shop. They will remain open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Capt. Ron of charter boat **Seabird** had Cardwell Condenser Corp. out on Saturday. They picked a way all day and ended up with a total of 35 nice fat flounder.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★BEST BET★
FLOUNDER

AMITYVILLE

At **Comb's Bait & Tackle**, Marie relayed word of good flounder fishing in Massapequa Cove, at Squaw Island and at Ft. Neck Point. Best combination has been worms with mussel chum. Some nice cod were weighed in at the shop on Sunday. Babylon Tuna Club members fishing aboard the boat Miss Marion took several cod and pollack from the Virginia wreck. Art Baldwin clicked with a 43½ lb. cod, Steve Rattner had a 46½ pounder and Ed Boyer took a 23 lb. pollack.

SEAFORD

Lon at **Wanser's Bait & Tackle** reported flounder fishing was a little slow on Saturday with 18 to 20 fish considered a good catch. Sunday morning the fishing was much better however. Massapequa Cove, West Island, Wanser's Cut, Zach's Bay and the Third Bridge all produced fish on worms and mussel chum. Best action appeared to be on outgoing tide. Some mackerel reported taken outside according to Lon.

Pop's Fishing Station reported fishing extremely good all over. Everybody brought in fish, but the peculiar thing was that they either brought in a lot, or very few—nothing in-between. Best fishing reported on worm with mussel chum. Best tide was the start of the incoming and the end of the outgoing. Fish caught at other times were scarce. High hook for the week was Mr. Lange from Ronkonkoma with his grandfather, Mr. Becker from Woodside, with 91 fish; the smallest 3/4 lbs. They fished out of Horton's Creek in shallow water. Larger fish are coming from shallow water.

Captain Eddie's Fishing Station tells about Steve Sabella, Chris Sabella and Joe Oberle of Bellmore who, among them, had 75 flounder from 3/4 to 1¾ lbs., which they coaxed out of the mud at Massapequa Cove and Great Island channel at buoy Z14 with clam, mussel and worms and lots of chum. Joe Lutton Jr. and Sr. pulled 110 flounder out of Massapequa Cove near the grass catcher on Sunday. Average catches were 30-35 fish per skiff, with both tides working.

Uncle Hermie's Fishing Station called to tell us that pals Don Geraci and Al Costadura boated 24 nice flounders up to 1½ lbs. on Saturday at Squaw Island using mussel bait and mussel chum. Catches generally for their rentals skiffs were very good Saturday but took a dip Sunday due to the violent winds.

BELLMORE

Bronco at **Merrick Tackle** reports that big Boston mackerel are presently off Sandy Hook and moving our way and the schools are reported to be very big. Local catches in Merrick and Freeport Bays have been picky on the flounder, fish generally running 1/2 to 3/4 lbs. with increased crab action daily. There have been rumors of chummed bass in the State Channel (schoolies) and also rumors of some weakfish caught in the State Channel.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports good catches were brought in by their rental boats on Friday fishing Broad Creek, Ned's Creek, Rowboat Alley, Merrick Point and the channel west to the Golf Course. Fish ranged in the ½ to ¾ lb. category. Your reporter was out both days of the weekend making many drops in many of the well known flounder spots. Catches both days were extremely picky and most areas are loaded with rock crabs. Total body count of fish was 6 on Saturday 7 on Sunday and a zillion crabs. Sunday I was accompanied by Phil "King Crab" Guillermo of Huntington who loaded up a 6 gallon bucket with crabs for his mommy and grandmommy to cook up with marinara

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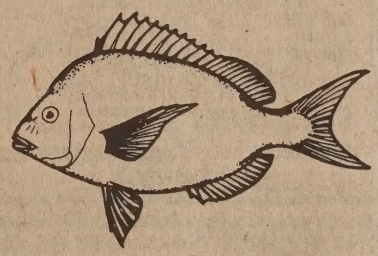

★ Shinnecock Canal ★

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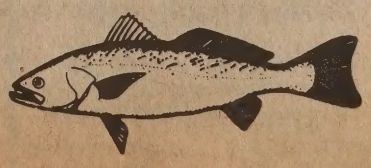

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sauce for his nightly spaghetti orgies.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** says there was very good flounder fishing over the weekend at Cinder Creek, Baldwin Bay, Middle Bay and Garrett's Lead on sand and blood worms and plenty of clam chum. All of his rental boats headed to these areas and all came back with good catches. There were a lot of 1 to 1¾ lb. fish and Andy weighed in four 2 plus pounders. Also mixed into the catch were several blue claw crabs.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MACKEREL

FREEPORT

Bob at **Hook, Line & Sinker** knew of some mackerel taken 5 miles off the beach, southwest of Jone's Inlet. Sandworms taking flounder in Baldwin and Randall Bays and also in Scow and Sea Dog creeks. Best flounder action during last of incoming and first outgoing tides.

The **Captain Lou III** reports that through the week the flounder fishing was "pretty good." Wednesday saw Dick of Atlantic Tires, Freeport bag up with 35 keepers up to 2 lbs. Dave Dryer of New Hyde Park totaled 32 keepers on Saturday. Mike says fish are decent sized with the largest of the week hitting 2½ lbs. Mike says keep an eye out for his **Capt. Lou IV** which will be a half-day boat, coming very soon.

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Star Stream II** reports excellent mackerel fishing Saturday with customers getting bags and buckets full of big Boston mackerel up to 2 lbs. The action was at Klondike, within easy reach of the big aluminum super cruiser. Everyone caught, says Richie, and it was a great day. Sunday was less productive due to sloppy conditions caused by the high winds.

The **Captain Hall** is fishing local back creeks and channels and doing a respectable job on the flatfish. Saturday's catches were best. Fish running from 1-1¼ lbs. High hook Saturday was 23 good keepers.

The Bluefin Fleet now running with the **Blue Fin III** fresh from the boat builder had charters both Saturday and Sunday, fishing an area west of Freeport. Both boats caught well on both days with Saturday the better day. High hook for the weekend was Karl Ebrus of

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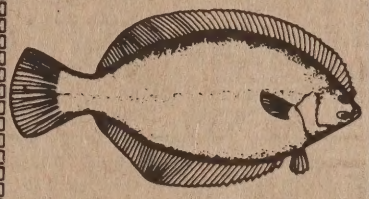

FLOUNDER 7A.M. DAILY

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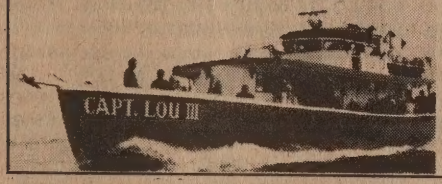

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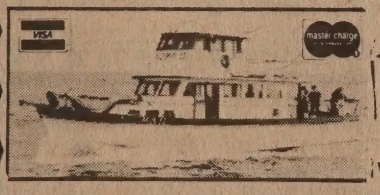

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Wantagh with 27 flounder. Average catch was 5-6 keepers a man with a per day total for each boat of 150-200 keeper flounders. Saturday's pool on the **Blue Fin II** was a 2½ lber. taken by Mr. Habenicht of Hicksville. High hook was R. Kagen of Oldbridge, NJ. Incoming tide worked best, with mussel and corn chum being utilized.

Captain Walter Scott of the **Acme II** reports excellent fishing for the week with only Thursday slowing down to a pick of mixed size flounder for Lee McNeil's group from Roosevelt with "RR" Ralph taking the pool. Sheldon Hectman's group from Sheldon Communications in Manhattan had a banner day with Adelina Brennock taking the pool. Jules and Eric Schmer shared 40 keepers between them. The charter for L.I. Taxi Association, Levittown, had a great day with a steady pick going. Walter Figurski took the pool. Captain Scott has been working Reynolds Channel for the most part.

The **Miss Freeport II** called to say flounder fishing has been good all week. Catches as high as 30 keepers a man. On Sunday, high hook was 35 fish, with the boat working close in local Freeport spots with mussel and worm bait all around the top of the tide. Tony asks us to remind you of his new 9AM sailing time. He will be mackerel fishing as soon as the big Bostons come within range.

POINT LOOKOUT

From **Ed's Fishing Station** Marilyn told us that she saw the first small fluke of the season taken by an angler fishing worms meant for flounder. She also reported sundials beginning to show up among the flounder. Flounder fishing over the weekend was very good particularly in the buoys 16 to 20 area. Warren Janda and Greg Nilson fished the flats to take 80 good size fish on worms and mussels. Irwin Levine and Steve Kaplan took nearly a hundred flatties also on worms and mussels. Bill Diaz and Jose Carrero fished the flats to take 70 fish up to 2 lbs. on mussels and red dyed clams. Outgoing tide providing the best action.

captain Dennis of the **Marie III** had the Rockville Centre/Oceanside Post Office out on Sunday and though things were picky, they still managed 10-12 keepers a person for those who stayed at the rail and fished in the wind. Steve Maxwell took the pool with a 1¾ lb. flounder. Steve had also taken the pool on the boat in January with a 47 lb. cod. Best flounder fishing has been at Garrett's Lead, Reynolds Channel and Swift Creek.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Bait & Tackle** confirmed the very good fishing in Reynold's Channel over the weekend. He described the catch

Calum Scott with a brace of big cod from among the catch made by he and his friend Jimmy twenty miles southeast of the NC buoy. The largest fish weighed 35 lbs. Subscriber Photo.

made by Vincent Terra, Tom Ciccone, and Wally Wallace aboard the Memories on Saturday. The trio fished Duck Point and landed 200 fish up to 2 lbs. with worms and mussel chum. They fished in 7' of water and returned more than half of the fish. Joe Kapper and Jerry Locastro dropped the hook in Reynold's Channel just west of the LIRR tressel while waiting for the bridge to open and ended up putting a way 45 flatties from ¾ to 1¾ lbs. Charlie reminded that even pier fishermen got in a good inning with the flatfish over the weekend.

Captain Clem of the **Commodore** says it was something like a blitz this weekend. Saturday saw 24 fares average 30-35 keepers a person. Jack Cohen of Oceanside pulled 55 keepers from ½ to 1 lb. Regular Bill Strobel on Sunday had 40 flounder. Forty fares on Sunday averaged around 22 keepers a person. Rosedale angler Bob Bertha managed 50 flounders. The pool winner was Anthony Heckelman of Valley Stream with a 2½ lber. Clem moved into the back waters late Sunday on a dropping tide and took another big patch of fish in the 1½ to 2 lb. range. He's fishing Reynolds Channel from Island Park to buoy 9. Garrett's Lead really produced Saturday. Clem's wife managed 25 keepers Saturday, so Clem says "you know the fish had to be thick."

LONG BEACH

Tom at **Long Beach Sports Marina** reported "a tremendous weekend all the way around". Plenty of fish, people and sunshine. Reynold's channel produced lots of good sized flatties on worms and mussels.

Reports have come in recently from veteran angler Lenny Satz and others of periodic super pier fishing at the Magnolia Street Pier on an outgoing tide. We have heard of excellent catches being made off the pier of 1-1½ lb. flounder. In the past, your reporter has fished this pier and made some decent catches there also, and this was a good 10-15 years back. It's good to know that some things never change.

ATLANTIC BEACH

The word from **Skippy's Bait & Tackle** was of real good flounder fishing over the weekend. Len Stoter, Stan Kaplan, Bob Raymond, Bob Foete, Jim Curran and John Charrot totaled 92 flounder using mussels for chum and bait at Duck Point. B. Snyder, H. Peterson and C Rennhack returned with over 100 flounder from Hog Channel. They also used mussels for bait and chum. Skippy knew of some blackfish in the back bay particularly in the vicinity of Schaefers Creek. He also reported one caster taking a small fluke at Bay Park on a piece of worm. Charles Berwind took 2 nice cod southeast of Jones in 125' of water on Sunday.

Sy Rubin of **Henning's Fishing Station** reported good fishing for nice size flounder over the weekend in Reynolds Channel. Mussel chum with worms and mussel bait accounting for the best scores. Sy named Cedarhurst Yacht Club and Duck Point as being two of the more productive spots.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait & Tackle** said the only news concerning his area involved some decent flounder fishing at the bridges. Both sandworms and bloodworms are taking fish up to 1¼ lbs. One angler stopped by the shop with 7 nice flatties on Sunday.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Dorothy B** reported fantastic flounder fishing over the weekend. Catches ranged from 15 to 35 flatties per person, with a pool fish of 2½ pounds taken on Sunday. Clam baits worked best. Lots of lead was needed to hold the bait down in the strong current found off Sandy Hook this weekend. The flounder didn't seem to care and plenty of double and triple headers were had.

Capt. Butch on the **Zephyr** enjoy- excellent flounder fishing on the oceanside of the Cedars over in Jersey. Tough tides made it a little tough to hold bottom but plenty of double and triple headers brought catches into the 25 to 55 per person range. A couple of ling were taken while fishermen were floundering with worm and clam bait.

Capt. Tom of the **Pilot II** also fished the Cedars with excellent

results. High hook on Sunday took 80 nice sized keepers from ¾ to 2 pounds. Mussels, clams and worms were responsible for this super duper fishing. Capt. Tom will start hackfishing on Wednesday, April 23rd, 6 a.m. daily.

The **Flamingo III** called to say they are now switching to mackerel since the big Bostons have been moving up the Jersey coast in quick fashion. Also on the upswing are whiting, so that it is very possible that there will be combination trips for these two species. However, the mackerel can only be expected to last for two or three weeks, so make your plans promptly.

STATEN ISLAND

At **Santo's Sport Shop**, Lenny reported that flounder fishing is now at it's peak. Fishing is good throughout the area with Stampleton Piers 8, 12 and 17 along with Princess Bay having an edge. Some tommy cod are also mixed with the flounders. Both are being taken on sand and blood worms.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

Art White of **A.P. White Bait Shop** described the flounder fishing as generally good. While some found it a little bit slow over the weekend, one angler on Monday morning was back for more bait after having taken 55 flounders in just a couple of hours east of the breakwater. Fishing has been pretty consistent in the vicinity of the breakwater and some of the boats that ran down to Aquebonac did very well. Mackerel now being taken in the bay according to Art.

The Peconic Star reports fishing slacked off Monday and Tuesday due to high winds and there are indications that the fish are moving east. This weekend fares averaged 7-15 keeper flounders per man. On Saturday, Evgar Stareck of Manhattan had 30 flounder fishing the breakwater. On Sunday, Ed Hagner was high hook with 32 flounder. Ed Ketchum had 10 flounder on the last drop of the day. All fares did well with over 175 fish taken.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that Friday saw a solid catch of 50 mackerel taken off Jessups by a Mr. Akyemeniciian of Forest Hills plus 4 friends. This was all on

Dominic DeRieri of Queens with 56 flounder taken at Nassau Point on worms and mussels. The fish ran from 1 to 2¾ lbs. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

incoming water. Flounders were caught the same day by various groups with one boat returning with 60 flounder up to 2½ lbs. fishing both sides of Jessups. Best at the top of incoming. Very good catches were also had over the weekend off Truman's Beach, fish running 2 lbs. and up. Thrity eight of these monsters were caught by Tom Quigly of Hauppauge. On Sunday Mr. Quigly returned and repeated his big fish act, all on mussels. Many good catches of this type were happening out of the station.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal at **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** tells of good flounder catches being made at Nassau Point, South Race and Roses Grove at the steps just southwest of buoy 18 and southwest of buoy 22 in the deep water. These fish are running up to 2½ lbs. and hitting on mussel and worm, mussel best.

Capt. Jim's Fishing Station says that things have been slow as a whole but even so, some good solid catches of flounder have been made. Flounders from 1 to 2 lbs. were taken Sunday by one of their rental skiffs at Nassau Point. Most boats are making many drops with buoy 23 at Robin's Island and other likely producing areas. Mussels are the prefered bait and heavy chumming is the key.

NOYAC

Barbara at **Noyac Marina** says the flounder fishing has been great and she tells us of Bayside angler George Mittenthal and Fred Barlow of Valley Stream who on Saturday had 40 keepers between them from 1¼ to 1½ lbs. average, fish up to 2 lbs. This was with bloodworms and mussel chum drifting off the nets on Jessups Neck between the nets and the monastery in the deeps. Fish were also caught off the Salty Dog restaurant.

SAG HARBOR

John at **Bay View Fishing Station** tells of good flounder catches all during the week, with action slowing down on the weekend due to high winds. Buoy 4 at Cedar Point produced good sized fish from 1½ to 2½ lbs. with average catches being 15-35 keepers a man. The flood was best on worm and clam and chumming with mussels.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill at **Three Mile Harbor Fishng Station** tells of Joe Serino of Brooklyn who on Saturday boated 70 flounder averaging 3/4 lbs. each up to 1¾ lbs., fishing inside the harbor with clam bait utilizing mussel and corn chum. On the weekend all renta skiffs did well, averaging approximately 40 fish per boat. Larger fish are starting to show at Asharoken Harbor, flatties to 3 lbs.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Bait and Tackle reports some nice flounder catches off Mattituck and the motel, fish from 1¼ to 2 lbs. hitting mussel and worm bait on incoming water. No small fish, says Warren and chumming is necessary. There are also flatties being caught in good numbers off the oyster factory in Greenport, at Nassau Point and at Cedar Beach. A 3 lb. weak was taken this week off the new Suffolk bridge. A few other 3 lb. class weaks were taken in the Shinnecock Canal, so bigger ones should be following in a week or so. Draggers have been having fairly good porgy catches in Gardiner's Bay. Mackerel are being hook and lined in Greenport as far west as Jessups.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** reported flounder fishing in the area has been up and down. Those hit it right do well. On Sunday afternoon, Keith McDonald kept 36 of the fish he caught, all ran from 1 to 3 lbs. He used worm bait and chummed with rice off of Wading River. In addition to the flounder news Stan knew of 2 short fluke taken by one of the shop's regular customers.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells us their skiffs are getting both flounder

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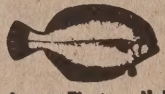
DOROTHY B



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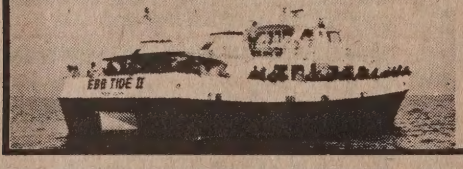
★CITY ISLAND★



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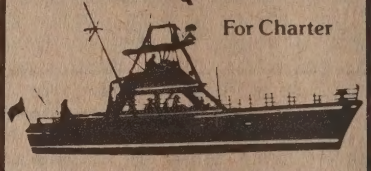

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and mackerel. Flounders are inside and outside the harbor. Larger flounder are at the inside of buoy 11, taken on sand worms, red dyed clams and mussel chum. Ken Fariello of Coram bagged 50 mackerel, all big Bostons, at buoy 11. Larger flounder are also inside Port Jeff harbor.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reports very good flounder fishing with the biggest fish being caught in the Flax Pond, these fish being 1 to 2½ pounders with a lot of 1½ lb. fish. Sandworms and fresh mussels along with mussel chum are doing the job. The majority of the fish are keepers. Inside, in Conscience Bay, there are more small fish. The first mackerel of the season was taken Thursday and the numbers of macks have been improving right through the weekend, mainly at buoy 11 and thereabouts. John Berger, Bob Namm of Queens and Bill Ryan of North Babylon had 52 flounder fishing at the Big Rock in Flax Pond. Ted Kreidler of Port Jefferson and buddy Fred had 20 large flounder and that first mackerel.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait and Tackle reports a very good weekend on flounder, with mackerel now starting to show. Sal and Sophie Bruno on Saturday had 42 keeper flounder and 50 on Sunday, working off Callahan's Beach. Ralph Puleo and friend Anthony Pepe out in a rental boat had 60 flatties Saturday fishing off Sunken Meadow with best results on mussels and red-dyed clam.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** reported good fishing for flounder in the harbor and also out in the sound. Smaller fish inside while some flatties up to 2 lbs. among the catches being made outside. The area from Ashroken to the Coast Guard Station has been the best bet for Sound flounder while Duck Island and the town dock are well populated with flatties inside of the harbor. Outgoing tide has been best in both areas and fish still showing a preference for sandworm bait.

NORTH SHORE WEST END ★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

HUNTINGTON

George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait & Tackle** called the flounder fishing the best of the season. Best action is out in the Sound along Ashroken and Marshall Field. Some fish as large as 2 lbs. among the catches. Worms along with mussels or clam chum have been accounting for the best scores. George knew of a few mackerel north of the Lilco loading platform and also of some bass worm trolled along the Causeway last week.

At **Ronnie's Bait & Tackle**, Ronnie Ferrara told us that Bob Striegel, Peggy Bruno and Rich Carlson fished Eaton's Neck with worms and mussels and took 40 flounder up to 1½ lbs. Mike and John Barberi and James Staltus had 15 nice fish at Sand City on Sunday. Best action according to Ronnie is now out in the Sound off of Marshall Field, Eaton's Neck and Callahan's. Fish run from ¾ lb. up to 2 lbs. and whenever conditions permit, slow drifting accounts for the best scores.

Charter boat **Eclipse** had a group out from Newsday on Sunday and they enjoyed good flounder action off Eatons Neck, fish from 1¼ to 2 lbs. There were a lot of flounders says Captain Ray, all keepers. Sandworms were the ticket, along with clam chum on both tides. Ray says the mackerel should be in his area in no more than two weeks.

Ten year old Lita Vernick of Port Washington holds her first fish, a 2 lb. mackerel taken from a dock in North Hempstead. Subscriber photo.

Six year old Kerry Stuven with her first flounder. The fish was one of twenty taken from the beach in Huntington Harbor on worms. Subscriber Photo.

The **Ever Ready** reports they've been fishing Huntington Harbor, Lloyd Harbor, Target Rock and Marshal Field, along with Eatons Neck with fish being found on all drops. Saturday morning's pool winner was George Harak of East Meadow with a 1½ lb. flounder. High hook with 17 flatties was Bob Johnson of Laurelton. Sunday afternoon's run saw 11-yr-old John Collins high hook with 12 fish. Mr. Carmurati took the pool with a 1¼ lber.

GLEN COVE

Dave of **Glen Cove Sports Shop** reported that flounder fishing in the area has been excellent. Four yr. old Dave DelFerraro took 11 keeper flounder off of Morgan's Dock on Friday. Sandy Petzold and Kevin Walsh fished 200 yds. off of the Millriver Gun Club and totaled 150 flounder on mussel bait and chum. A few mackerel reported out in the Sound according to Dave who also asked us to remind readers of the year long fishing contest being sponsored by the shop. See their ad for details.

CITY ISLAND

Jack of **Jack's Bait & Tackle** described the fishing at Rodman's Neck, Orchard Beach and Hart's Island as very good. Fish are averaging ½ to 1 lb. and showing a preference for sandworms. One of Jack's rental boats returned with the first 2 blackfish of the season. They were taken at the old CBS tower on worms. Jack will try to have fiddlers or green crabs in stock by the weekend.

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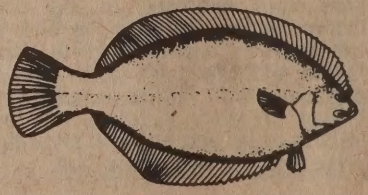

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SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

At this point in the season, opportunities in the surf are limited pretty much to the harbors and beaches of western Long Island Sound.

On the south shore, early reports are encouraging for a renewed spring run of school bass along western beaches.

Some good early season bets for bass are the Lilco Power Plant in Northport and at adjacent Crab-Meadow Beach, the Lloyd Neck Causeway, the Little Neck Bay shore and Turtle Cove in City Island.

Best bet on the south shore appears to be Gateway National Park on Staten Island, which has been showing some signs of good early bass action. Also there have been lots of unconfirmed reports of schoolies being taken along the beach at Point Lookout.

Weakfish will be entering the picture shortly with anglers working the banks of the State Boat Channel and the Shinnecock Canal being among the first to score.

The seasons first reports shaped up as follows:

SOUTH SHORE

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** in Staten Island offered one of the more encouraging reports for surf-men. He knew of school bass from shorts on up to 6 lbs. being taken at Penny's Beach, Sailers Snug Harbor, and Gateway National Park. The latter location has been getting the heaviest play and for good reason. Lenny described the fishing as the best in four years for this time of the season. He expects it will be another week before it can be described as a solid run of fish. All of the action up to this point has been on sand-worms.

Charlie Beckmann of **Beckmann's Tackle Shop** in Island Park, **Skippy's Bait Shop** in East Rockaway and Lon at **Wanser's Tackle Shop** in Seaford all had heard rumors and reports of school bass being taken along the beach at Point Lookout and also at West End. Neither of these tackle-men has yet to see a fish but some of the sources can be considered reliable.

Moving east to Shinnecock, Tom at **Speck's Bait & Tackle** has heard of no bass being taken by those dunking worms but does expect the weakfishing in the canal to break open in about a weeks time.

Out at Montauk we managed to

get hold of Johnny Kronuch who informed us that although he and the few of the locals have had tried a few nights this past week they are still looking for their first Montauk striper.

NORTH SHORE

Jack of **Jack's Bait & Tackle** in City Island could confirm the catch of atleast one bass in Turtle Cove. He expected that others were being taken judging by the turnout of anglers at this location.

George Valentine relayed word from his **Four Winds Tackle Shop** in Huntington that the fishing along the beach at Crab Meadow has been pretty consistent with bass up to 4 lbs. being taken at dusk and daybreak. Most fish are being taken

PROMISED LAND FLOUNDER

(Continued from page 30.)

small hole, so you may have to bounce the anchor awhile to find it. Incoming water is best here.

2. Cherry Point: In the area surrounding buoys 3 and 4 there is often good flounder action, particularly on moving water. Don't fish between the buoys. Fish outside the main deep water channel.

3. The Factory: You can't miss this huge, abandoned fish factory complex. About 300 yards off the factories is a series of deep holes. Check your chart. You can also drift over the holes to see which ones hold fish.

4. West Shore: This is a drifting area. Drifting from the tank area to the Yacht Club will often locate the fish. Run parallel drifts forty feet apart until you find the fish.

5. Cartwright Area: This is a good slack water area. Strong tides make this spot hard to fish. Stay on the outside of the deep channel and the water flow slows down. Use a weighted chum pot and heavy sinkers.

6. Tobaccolot Bay: On a calm day you can easily make this five mile run. It's seven miles from Montauk. Larger fish are caught here as well as big blackfish. Chumming is a must to draw the fish to the boat. Fish in twenty feet of water due south of the point.

7. East Gardiner's: Many Montauk and Connecticut charter and party boats fish this area, and there is usually a small fleet anchored up. If it gets too crowded, move to Tobaccolot Bay to be by yourself. Too many boats will spook these fish. This is another good blackfish area.

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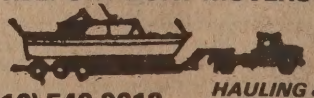

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on 4½ inch Rebels with some falling to bucktails and sandworms. George knew of one or two fish picked up by casters along the Causeway shore this past week.

In Northport, Tom Bowman of **Bowman's Sporting Goods** confirmed the bass action at Crab Meadow. He said that Rebels and sandworms have been accounting for bass up to 5 lbs. with an occasional bigger fish mixed in.

There were no reports of any kind of surf action east of here. We contacted both Stan at the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** and Art White in Greenport, both have heard nothing as of yet.

Anyone wishing to contribute info to the column can call me on Monday mornings at (516) 725-4200. Information regarding what you did not do in an area is as welcome and as valuable as making a big score. Good fishing in 1980 to all who roam the Long Island surf.

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1979 GRADY WHITE 20' 204C Overnighter, twin 70 h.p. Johnsons. Complete bridge canvas, walkaround cabin; CB radio; head; rod holders; outriggers; CG equipment. $11,500. Mint condition. Owner must sell. EDDIE'S MARINE. 212-327-3088.

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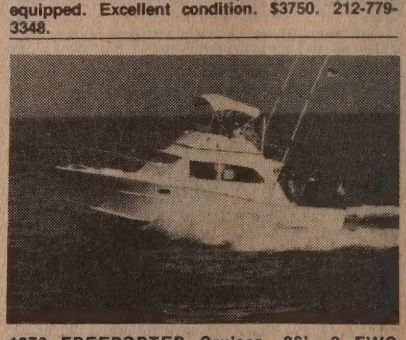

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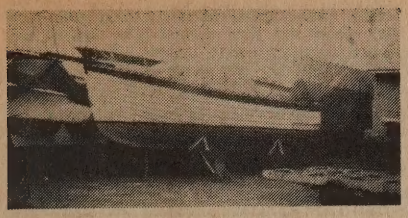

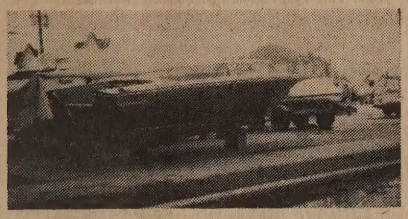

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FREE CATALOG—Fisherman's pewter belt buckles. P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566

WHOLESALE MARINE SUPPLIES
Marine fasteners wholesale. Stainless, Silicon bronze. Complete line. O-Rings, shop parts, Grade 5, 8, farm, industrial fasteners. Free Catalog and delivery Suffolk County. 516-281-3366. ARONMARINE, 61 Mastic Beach, NY. 11951.

ATTENTION—NORTH SHORE TRAILER BOATERS: Save time, gas and wear and tear on your car and trailer. Keep your trailered boat up to 23' on my protected property in Aquebogue. $65 plus tax for entire season. WARREN'S TACKLE CENTER, 516-722-4898.

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ORIGINAL GOURMET RECIPES for the catch-and-cook fishermen. Different, delicious delicacies. Some dating to 1700s. Some simple; some sophisticated. You pick 'em, you'll love 'em. $3.25 to: "ONE-2-ONE" RECIPE COLLECTION, Box 525, Northport, N.Y. 11768.

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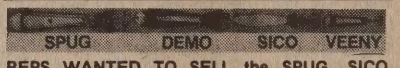
FISHING TACKLE



REPS WANTED TO SELL the SPUG, SICO, VEENY & the DEMO. WE HAVE THEM IN STORES ALL ALONG THE EAST COAST. These are the only metal lures that look and swim like an injured fish. They zigzag with a continuous wobbling, flashing action that fish can see from a long distance. Because these bright chrome plated lures zigzag and won't spin or plane up at any speed or depth, makes them the very best for trolling, long distance casts, jigging, carrying surgi-tubes, rubber fish tails, pork rind and bait. Please read the letter. MINNOE LURE CO., Box 98, MILFORD, CT. 06460. "Gentlemen: Thank you for forwarding the various Minnoe lures for testing. We found the spug with the surgical tube was most effective this Fall on bluefish and striped bass. This lure continually outfished all others off the south Jersey coast. F.E."

Selling large collection tackle. New/used rods-reels. From Ultra-light to trolling and surf casting. Fenwicks to 12'. Original Harnells, Conolons, Silaflex. Pack fly rods. Rodbutts, reelseats, packrod tubes. Penn International 30, squidders, surfmasters. Rebels, Bananas, jigs, Hopkins, Pink Lady. Ande, Trilene, Dacron. Hooks, tied or box. Crab nets, sinkers, 5 oz. Aluminum sidewinders. Some locks/hardware. Will consider Penn reels in trade. Ted. 212-571-0710. Nites 9-11PM

Bulldog blackfish rigs. Two Virginia hooks, heavy leader. 3 rigs - $2.50. Check or M.O.: SPENCER'S RIGS, 573 East 28th St., Bklyn, N.Y. 11210.

AUTHENTIC BLOCK TIN SQUIDS: No chrome, steel, lead or zinc! The real McCoy for the master surfcaster. Free brochure. Write "The Bluefish," P.O. Box 1, Ryder Station, Bklyn., NY 11234.

FREE CATALOG—A complete line of quality tackle at the most competitive prices. Newell, Penn, Ande, Cortland, Atom, Gibbs...just to name a few. Special items for the surf fisherman. We have CHATILLON SCALES! THE REEL ANGLER, P. O. Box 171, Bellmore, N.Y. 11710.

EVERYTHING for the saltwater fisherman. Quality tackle at lowest prices. Free Catalog. SALT WATER TACKLE BOX, Dept. FG, Falmouth, Mass. 02541.

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Catch more fish...with superior designed saltwater rigs. Send for free catalog now!!! HUDSON TACKLE, Dept. I, P. O. Box 437, Kearny, NJ. 07032.

LIFETIME CHUM POT. All PVC construction. No metals; 1½ and 2½ qt. sizes - $15 & $20. SEAHUNTER, 198 Woodbury Rd., Huntington, NY 11743.

FLOUNDER—Three hook rig. $.99 each; three for $2.50. Check or M.O.: SPENCER'S RIGS, 573 East 28th St., Bklyn, NY.11210.

TO INQUIRERS—The 2 inch SICO with a NEW 35 lb. test ring for your POLLACK is as GOOD for TROUT as for SNAPPER BLUES. The DEMO and the 4 inch SICO can be CHANGED into POPPERS or SWIMMERS. Just change the SINGLE hook BUCKTAIL and the FISHTAIL hook, so the point of the hook faces UP or DOWN. As a POPPER, reel in before it sinks; to BOTTOM TROLL the DEMO you MUST use a SINKER. (DEADLY). The VEENY and the 3 and 4 inch SICOs are as DEADLY on WALLEYES and BASS as on WEAKFISH. The SPUGS have a NEW TYPE of SURGI-TUBE with a BIGGER hook. (DEADLY) If an INJURED MINNOW ZIGZAGS and WOBBLES a GAME fish will GRAB it quick as an EASY MEAL. The ONLY lures with this ACTION are the MINNOE LURES.

CATCH MORE FISH! Patented two-hook rigs. GUARANTEED! Flounder, fluke, weakfish, striper. Six rigs - $5.50. Free brochure. Aqua-Clear, 314 Cherry Road, Atco, NJ 08004#19

FLOUNDER KILLER RIGS: Flounders are committing suicide on this famous 3-hook rig especially designed for the "meat fisherman." Special design and construction keeps tangles at a minimum. All hand-made; finest quality material. Three completely tied rigs for $3.50. Send check or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

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Small 2 BR Cottage; 1 block from Noyac Bay. Available for season. $2500. Swim, clam and fish. Boat livery nearby. Call 516-725-3857 Evenings.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	3:15	3:55	4:30	5:00	4:05	4:45	5:20	5:55	7:50	8:15	7:00	7:30	3:20	3:50	4/24
FRI.	4:15	4:50	5:20	5:45	5:00	5:35	6:10	6:35	8:40	9:05	7:55	8:15	4:15	4:35	4/25
SAT.	5:05	5:35	6:05	6:30	5:50	6:15	6:55	7:15	9:25	9:45	8:40	9:00	5:00	5:20	4/26
SUN.	6:50	7:15	7:45	8:05	7:35	7:55	8:30	8:50	11:05	11:20	10:20	10:35	6:41	7:00	4/27
MON.	7:30	7:55	8:30	8:40	8:15	8:35	9:10	9:20	11:45	11:50	11:00	11:15	7:20	7:40	4/28
TUE.	8:10	8:30	9:00	9:15	8:50	9:05	9:45	9:55	–	12:15	11:40	11:50	8:05	8:20	4/29
WED.	8:45	9:05	9:35	9:50	9:30	9:40	10:20	10:30	12:00	12:26	–	12:15	8:45	9:00	4/30
THUR.	9:20	9:40	10:10	10:25	10:05	10:10	11:00	11:05	12:15	12:45	12:25	12:50	9:25	9:40	5/1

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 36
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/25	5:04	6:53
4/26	5:03	6:54
4/27	6:01	7:55
4/28	5:59	7:56
4/29	5:58	7:57
4/30	5:57	7:58
5/1	5:56	7:59

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/15	4/22	4/30	4/8

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs	12:15	**6:45**	12:40	**7:10**
Fri.	12:55	**7:25**	1:25	**7:45**
Sat.	1:35	**8:05**	2:00	**8:25**
Sun.	3:15	**9:45**	3:40	**10:05**
Mon.	3:55	**10:20**	4:20	**10:45**
Tues.	4:30	**11:00**	5:00	**11:25**
Wed.	5:10	**11:40**	5:40	—
Thurs.	6:50	**12:05**	6:20	**12:30**

Modell's
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SUPER SPECIAL!

PURCHASE ANY FAMOUS REEL SUCH AS PENN, RYOBI, OLYMPIC, GARCIA, SHAKESPEARE ETC. AND GET

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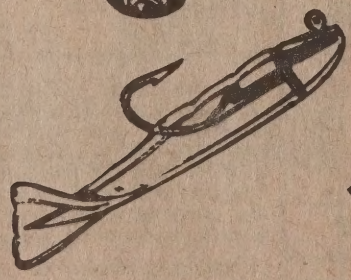
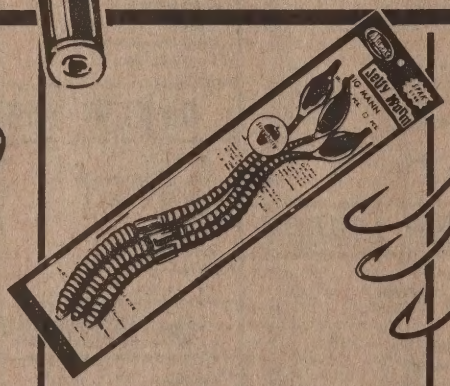


Bagley Salty-Dogs Jumbo Shrimp

Weakfish can't resist the Salty Dog 1 oz." Size.
Limit 2 Per Customer.

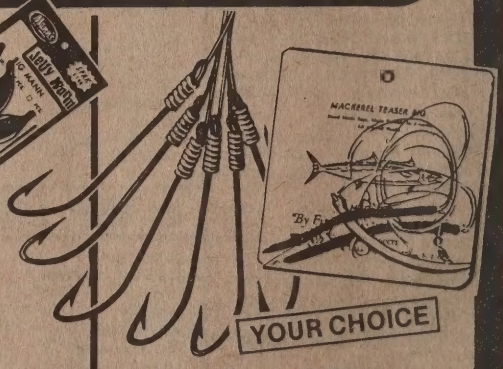
69¢ PKG.



Mann's 9" Scented Jelly Worms

Grape & Strawberry. Famous Weakfish Killer.
Limit 2 Per Customer

59¢ PKG. OF 3



Mackerel Rig or 24 Flounder Hooks

Your Choice
24-Snelled Flounder Hooks, or Deluxe 3 tube Mackeral Rig.

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